

ACTIVE TRANSFORMATION #8

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Rex Bell

The contention that he was so combative that he could not be put into a chair is now conveniently based on the word of the cops. He was behind bars and was cuffed at his wrists and at his ankles, with his ankles cuffed to a belt around his waist. He was not provided with a chair, the excuse being that they could not get him into a chair. He died very shortly after being put in the cell. The autopsy report stated that Mr. Swans did not die of physical trauma. The toxicology reports showed nothing was in his bloodstream. Again, my guess is that the coroner, as they usually do, ignored any evidence of police misconduct, and was hoping that the toxicology report would report any chemical, whether a legal sedative or illegal drug or alcohol that could be blamed instead for his death. With no chemicals in the victim's bloodstream, the police department is left without a scapegoat and in a very tricky situation. Most people realize that 40 year old men just don't die of old age.

Rex Bell was killed one night later, while in the custody of the Lansing Township Police. Sparty's Bar in Lansing Township has had a long history of racist treatment of its patrons. This is obvious from the testimony of various people at recent public meetings in Lansing, some of whom have ended up in the hospital. There were 13 bouncers at Sparty's that night. A friend of Rex Bell was sitting on a pool table. Management didn't like that and ordered the man off the table. When the friend refused to budge he was jumped on by the bouncers and pressure was applied to his windpipe until he passed out. He was then thrown out of the bar. He regained consciousness outside the bar. Meanwhile, Rex Bell and a friend of his were warming up their car to leave. They were about to leave when they saw several bouncers grab this man again outside the premises. Rex Bell walked over to separate the two parties and allow his friend to go home. He was then jumped by several bouncers and they made him pass out (killing him?). At his point, the township police showed up. They cuffed several people, including Rex Bell. I suspect that Bell was killed either by the bouncers or a combination of brutal treatment by the police and the bouncers. Again, the coroner attempted to blame the death on any chemical, to no avail; the toxicology report came out clean: Rex had only had probably two or three beers. Now the cops and Sparty's are the obvious two main suspects in his killing, the coroner's report of "no physical trauma" notwithstanding.

There were two meetings of close to 300 (by my count) people in the Lansing community and was reported in the Lansing State Journal. Shut down Sparty's! Down with the racist criminal justice system!
Mark Parker 2/14/96

Later update...



Edward Swans

Rex Bell and Edward Swans both died while in the custody of Lansing Area police. Edward Swans was a local mentally ill man who was used to being let into the childcare center to use the phone. When he was denied entrance, he tried to get inside anyway by using a pick. (Lansing police described the tool he was using as a pickaxe, but the tool was quite small.) Lansing police described the man as combative. Frankly, these words of the cops carry very little weight, if any. It is a matter of routine procedure for cops to say someone assaulted them in cases where the cops are brutal. This provides a convenient excuse if the prisoner is injured; "they injured me, I injured them". I have seen the cops do this before in Ann Arbor; a man protesting the CIA was kicked in the groin by the cops simply for being at the front of our protest and went straight to the ground -- later he was charged with assaulting the officers.

The police had records that Swans was mentally ill; they went against their own policy and did not return Mr. Swans to a community mental health facility. Instead, my guess is that they beat him senseless, and threw him in the cell. My guess is bolstered by the inability of the police department to come up with videotape of the period before Mr. Swans was already cuffed and in the cell; they only have videotape of the period after he was dead.

It has been determined that Edward Swans died an accidental death by the Ingham County Prosecutor Donald Martin. The incomplete police videotape of Edward Swans surrounded by six police officers in his cell shows that the entire time he was being hogtied and put on his stomach --- he did not move. This totally contradicts earlier police reports that the cops were unable to restrain Swans -- their rationale for why Swans was not put in a chair after being hogtied as most inmates are. (Lansing State Journal, 1/5/96) The video is mysteriously incomplete -- all it shows is six police officers sitting on and standing over an inert Swans inside the cell. After leading people to believe that there had been a fight between the police and Swans, we see nothing of that fight. As far as the struggle to get Swans into the chair in the cell? Nothing. After viewing the tape, Swans' family and their lawyer are in the process of filing a lawsuit against the Lansing Police Department.

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I Active Transformation #8
t PO Box 6746
East Lansing, MI 48826

April/May '96

Direct Action News

Direct Action in Ohio The People Fight Back!!!

In January 1992, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) announced plans to build a federal prison in Columbiana County. In the process, they planned to take over land owned and farmed by families who have farmed this land from generation to generation.

The BOP issued false propaganda about how they would implement a job pool for locals. Local farmers and working folks pulled together in a grassroots group to oppose the prison. Petitions were gathered against the prison, so the BOP, devious as they are, gathered their own petitions from other counties in the area saying 80% of the population wanted the prison.

The citizens group hired counsel and a public relations firm to combat the BOP. It's not that they were against the building of a prison per se, but the confiscating of farmland that had been in their families from generation to generation. After a protracted battle, BOP partially conceded and scaled the project back to 330 acres, from the 1,800 they originally planned. The citizens group is still working to get BOP to back all the way off, by utilizing environmental law because the site is a wetland.

However, BOP has started to clear the land for construction of the prison. Last week, construction was halted after hundreds of rounds of ammunition (.22) shells wrapped in foil with spikes inserted in the wrapping were discovered peppering the construction site. Heavy machinery or trucks rolling over these homemade mines would have damaged the construction machinery (and maybe a few BOPers).

This direct action tactic has been used by strikers to stop production by scab labor. During the coal miners strike, spikes bent into U-shaped horse shoes were strewn on the mining roads to flatten tires of scab trucks. Throughout history, these direct action tactics have been the most successful tools in stopping scab and unfair labor by big money management companies.

All the petitions in the world, protests and campaigns utilized by the working class against billion dollar corporations pale to simple direct action techniques. When construction or production is stopped forcibly, and megabucks are being lost each day production/construction is halted; success is but a hop, skip and a jump away.

Of course, BOP increased security, and publicly stated that the ammunition was just the work of "prankster vandals," attempting to downplay the incident. We know better. When the first Dutch worker threw his wooden clog into the machinery of a production line -- inventing the technique called "sabotage," big business recognized the power, effectiveness, and ingenuity of the workers vs. management. All the security in the world cannot stop determined working class folk from screwing up the government or big business.

Ohio is clearing ground for a Super Max prison in Youngstown, a few miles away from the BOP prison. 1.5 million dollars has been allotted for the first phase of laying the foundation in what will be a 65 million dollar project. I wonder what Ohio DORC would do if the foundation caved in and all machinery on the site destroyed? This is what happened to a German Super Max after the RAF bombed and destroyed the completed unoccupied prison. Needless to say, the prisoncrats did not rebuild it.

We are in times where our politicians are using crime and punishment as their political platform -- even to extremes that prisoncrats are decrying rationality in NOT the law in this arena. When irrationality is the law, revolutionary tactics are in order.

Remember Attica, Remember Sante Fe, Remember Lucasville.

-- A Field Marshall

Engler Shut Down on MSU Campus

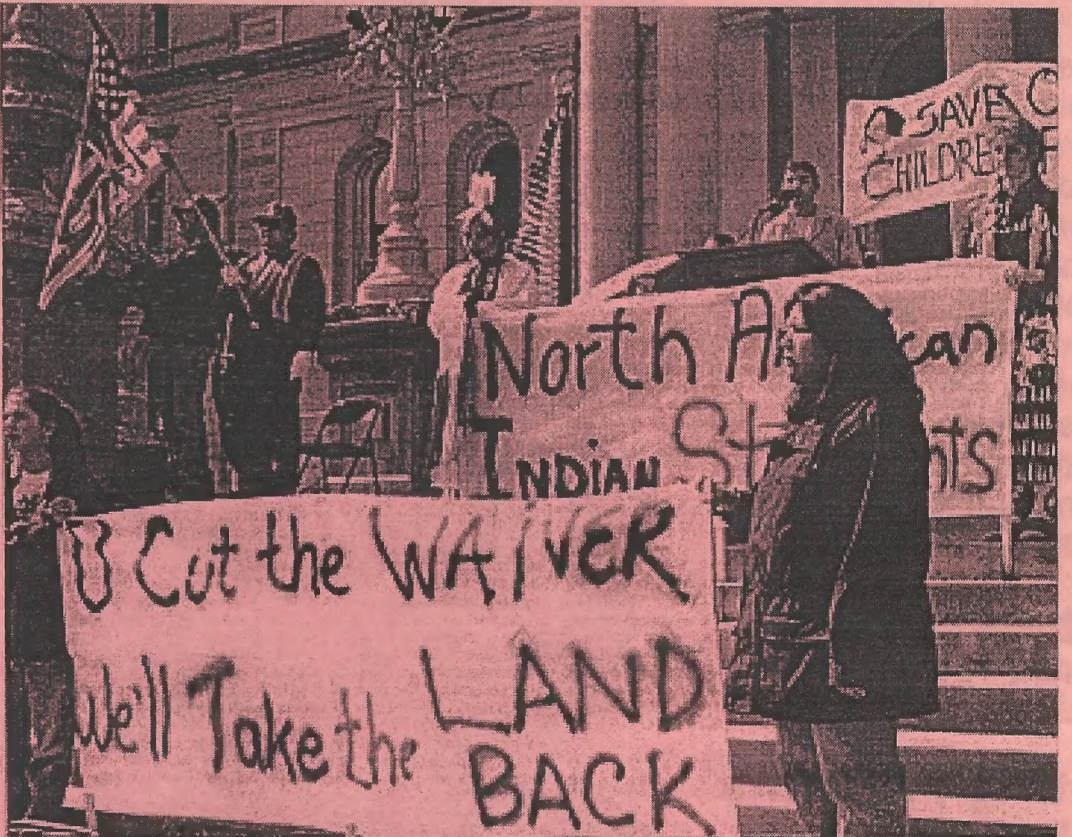
--chris

East Lansing, October 6, 1995--Governor John Engler was chosen as the Grand Marshal of MSU's annual homecoming parade. Having many things to say to our beloved Republican conservative governor, who is setting out to cut students' financial aid, welfare, and other social programs, to name a few things, at least 80 people gathered with signs and banners in front of the Evergreen Grill on Abbot Road where the parade procession was to come through. The group of protesters was comprised of a variety of groups covering a wide range of interests, including wimmins' groups, Chicano groups, Black groups, workers' groups, anti-authoritarian groups, as well as a lot of people who just came to support the cause.

As Engler's motorcade strolled down Abbot, the protesters immediately flowed into the street holding their signs and banners toward Engler's car. They received word just before the parade that the authorities found out about the protest that was going down, and had informed them that anyone who attempted to stop the parade would be arrested. The protesters flocked around the procession on both sides of the street, chanting at the governor and waving signs. Mr. Family-Values and his latest wife, although they knew about the protest, had their baby triplets on their laps as they sat waving and flashing their fake smiles on from the back of a convertible, which was surrounded by a few goons and a formation of mounted police, who unprovokedly pulled their horses toward where the protesters were and used them to try to push protesters around. This continued as the parade proceeded down Abbot, as Engler began to lose his politician's smile and a Michigan flag went up in flames on the side of the street.

The parade proceeded to the band practice field in front of Demonstration Hall where it was planned that Engler and others would speak. The protesters got there first and stood in front of the stage as the armed motorcade came through behind. The kops immediately started to position themselves on the sides of the stage and to make threats. Chants were shouted as MSU President McPherson took the stage, only to be shouted out by even louder chants, including chants against his refusal to boycott grapes. The band was told to play the school's fight song several times as the protesters wouldn't give in. After Lansing Mayor Hollister's speech, what was supposed to be an introduction to Engler turned out instead to be a farewell, indicating the end of the event.

This was a victory for the movement, although one of Engler's officials called this protest "useless and inappropriate" (Lansing State Journal--Oct. 7). This just goes to show how little politicians care about the people they are suppose to be representing. In stead of actually listening to what angry citizens have to say about how unfairly they are being treated by their government, their so-called representatives call their actions "inappropriate," even though they won't even listen in any other situation.



Native Americans protest the State's broken promises

Active Transformation #8
PO Box 6746
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April/May '96

STAND UP TO THE RIGHT WING PARAMILITARIES!

The rightist paramilitaries have announced their intention to return to the Lansing Capitol steps on October 24 to once again try to stop the U.N. Day flag-raising ceremony and, sickeningly, the local government seems ready to let the action take place, despite the fact that the rightist thugs have already sent several threatening letters to various officials warning them not to attempt to go on with the ceremony and the paramilitary leaders freely admit that "there are going to be some angry [read: violent] people there."

When the racist mob showed up last year to try to stop the flag-raising, they waved guns and screamed "foreigners, go home" at ESL students while spray-painting slogans and intimidating the high school marching band that was performing for the ceremony, showing their true xenophobic colors. Yet city officials seem intent on giving up without a fight, already planning a meeting to consider withdrawing the elementary school children from the ceremony. But why shouldn't innocent school children be able to peacefully celebrate an international holiday without being assaulted by a gun-waving mob of hundreds of "Christian patriots?"

The rightist paramilitaries try to compare themselves with "resistance fighters" or the minutemen of the American revolution, but a more apt comparison would be with the rightist paramilitaries in Central America or the Ku Klux Klan, which praised them at their recent rally in Hillsdale, MI. In fact, the founder of one of the first rightist paramilitaries--the Militia of Montana, which in turn founded the Michigan paramilitary--was an activist from the Aryan Nations and their movement today is riddled with activists of the traditional Ku Klux Klan and Nazi organizations, while they have "friendly," to say the least, relationships with the Aryan Nations to this day.

The rightist paramilitaries will, of course, try to pass off their racist, anti-foreigner mob terror as a "peaceful demonstration," but that garbage should be classified with the Ku Klux Klan's assertion that they "just love white people." The purpose of their action is to intimidate minorities and foreign-born young people while spreading their message of hatred to the rest of the world and making it quite clear that failure to accept "America first" chauvinism is not a healthy choice.

Finally, as Adolf Hitler said, great marches and shows of strength were a way that the "little worms" recruited into his movement could feel like part of a "great dragon." Hitler's Nazis also evolved out of a rightist paramilitary (the Freikorps) and his rhetoric on national honor and imagined "Jew-bolshevik(communist)" conspiracies was frighteningly similar to that of the American rightist paramilitaries today.

That's why we cannot allow ourselves to simply give in and allow them to perform their racist mob action unopposed. It's time to stand up to their hatred and their terror.

--K Liebknecht

CALLING ALL BANDS!

The Atlanta Olympic Protest Committee is calling for progressive/alternative music bands (especially "punks"), political hip-hoppers, radical poets, and music artists of all types, along with political activists to come to Atlanta, Georgia during the 1996 Olympics to take part in the Olympic Underground Music Attack, a music concert/political protest against the Olympics to be held the weekend of July 19-20, 1996.

The theme of this concert is "Rock Against Racism, Rap Against the State" (although Reggae, folk, and other music forms are welcome). We want to use this concert as a political forum to expose the commercial nature of the Olympics, the warlike nation-state basis of the "competition", the police state activities of the Atlanta/United States government to prepare for the holding of the Olympics, the farce of the 1996 American elections, and the deteriorating economic/political condition of the U.S.A. and the world in general that the Olympics are designed to cover-up.

This concert is a benefit for the Foundation for Radical Social Change, a non profit funding organization, which will disperse the funding proceeds to pre-designated organizations fighting racism, for human rights, prisoner support, and other issues. If your music organization or your band is interested in playing at the 1996 Olympics Underground Music concert, please contact:

Atlanta Olympics Protest Committee '96
c/o The Georgia Anti-Authoritarian Group
P.O. Box 144
Hiram, GA 30141

What Can You do to help?

1. Re-print this letter in your newspaper, magazine, or other publication.
2. Tell your friends and bands in your area about the concert.
3. Organize a caravan to Atlanta of local fans and music groups to come and play.
4. Send a donation to defray the costs of organizing the concert and this mass mailing.

FIGHT RACISM,
FIGHT POLICE BRUTALITY,
SMASH THE STATE!



Nationalist Michigan Militia Out Practicing

STUDENTS SPOIL GOVERNOR ENGLER'S PARTY!

Michigan's Republican Governor John Engler--an ultra right-winger that tries to associate himself with Newt Gingrich and his

"Contract with America and who is best known for actions like shutting down a mental health clinic in the middle of the night and cutting off funding for funerals for the poor, and who also has cozy connections to homophobic outfits like "Focus on the Family" and the Christian Coalition--got a rude surprise when he tried to participate in Michigan State University's home-coming parade last Friday.

Engler, who tries to associate himself with Gingrich and his Contract, was scheduled to first take part in the home-coming parade and then make a speech at the pep rally at the end of the parade--things didn't go quite as planned. The despicable bigot tried to win sympathy by bringing his triplet baby daughters (dressed in cheer-leader outfits, isn't that great?) but apparently without much success.

When the parade progressed from Hannah Middle School to Evergreen Grill on Abbot, Engler was confronted with dozens of sign-waving protesters mobilized by student groups like the campus feminist group--the Women's Council--who were joined by the rest of the crowd in booing and chanting at Engler. The Governor turned a shocked stare towards the line of protesters, one of whom was burning a Michigan flag in front of his face as he passed to annoy him, and averted his eyes as he passed on, obviously uncomfortable.

The high point of the day's fun came when Engler tried to give a speech at the pep rally at the end of the parade--he was completely prevented from doing so by the chants and booing of angry students, most of whom weren't even organized protesters.

The Lansing State Journal printed a short article on the action, entitled "Spartans Show Their Pride." GO MSU!

K. Liebknecht

Hunger Strikers Force MSU to recognize the struggle of United Farm Workers

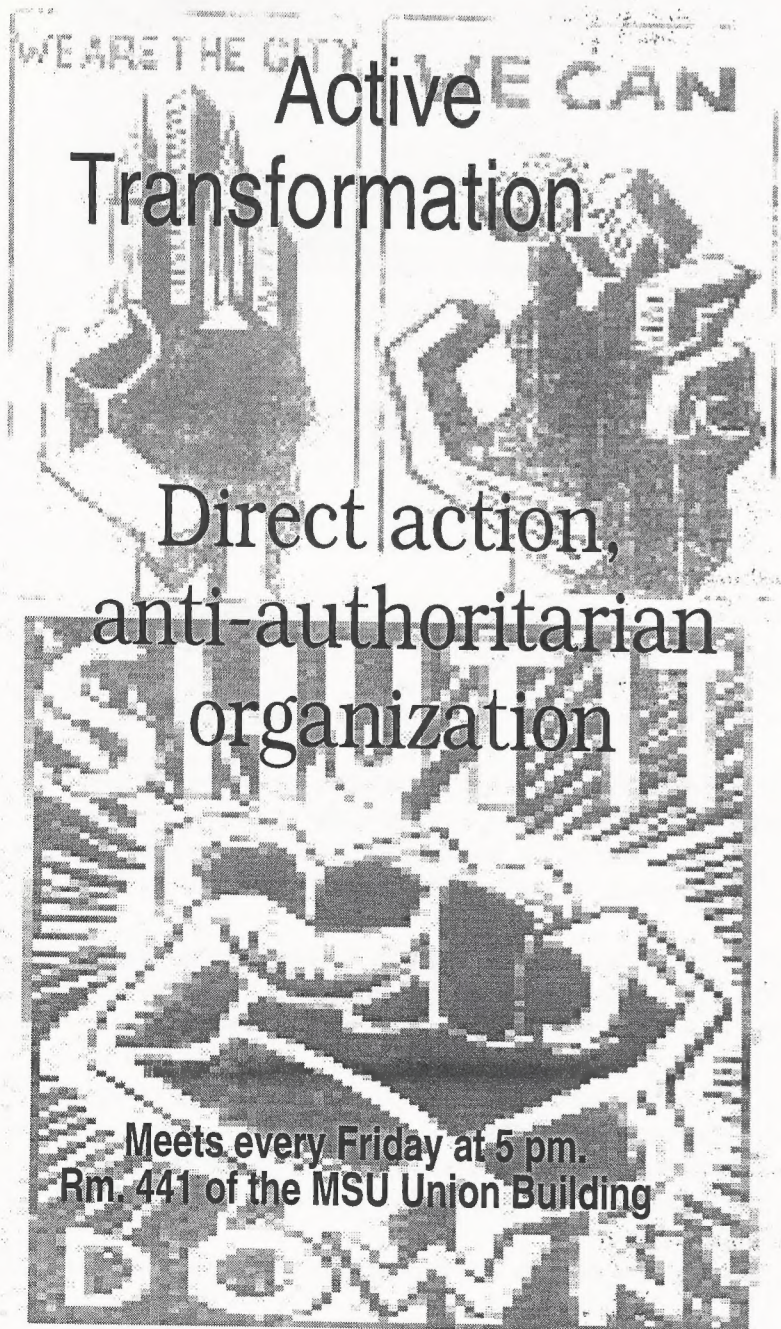
Six students at MSU endured a prolonged hunger strike in order to force the university to back down on its refusal to stop buying California table grapes. One of the students was forced to go to the hospital before the MSU administration starting backing down. This same student came back from the hospital to rejoin the strike after his condition, aggravated by diabetes, stabilized a little.

The Wilson Hall CRU room was taken over by the hunger strikers and their supporters. It became a center for the dissemination of information on the brutal conditions that the United Farm Workers labor under. The lies MSU was putting out, that there was no evidence that grape workers were harmed by pesticides, was false. The strike center was able to put out information showing that the studies MSU was looking at did indeed show that grape workers were being poisoned.

As a result of the action, MSU students will be able to vote on the question of whether to join the boycott. To contact MEXA (the organization that organized the hunger strike) call: 374-6646



State of the State Protest



EMMA CENTER CLOSES AFTER CLOSE TO THREE YEARS

In late June, 1995, the doors closed on the Emma Anarchist Community Center. Two problems that have vexed the entire info shop movement conspired to shut down Emma- lack of funds and lack of members. When Emma closed it was several hundred dollars in debt and was down to one or two collective members and a few occasional volunteers. Those who attended the final collective meeting bowed to the obvious pressures of being in debt to distributors, utilities and the landlord and voted to close.

Emma Center began as an idea at a Twin Cities Anarchist Federation (TCAF) meeting over three and one half years ago at Mayday Books in Minneapolis. The general consensus is that Dan (Troll) of Profane Existence, first brought up the idea of an anarchist oriented info shop and venue for punk rock concerts, though several other members of TCAF were thinking along the same lines. The original idea for Emma included ideas for an anarchist book and record store, punk shows, free daycare, free food, free clothes and a meeting space for anarchist and other radical groups.

Many members of TCAF worked ceaselessly to bring the dream of Emma Center to reality. They were assisted by the AWOL collective, the PE collective, the Powderhorn Co-op Grocery (located across the street from Emma, and now also departed) and various members of the community.

Almost from day one the Emma Center was prone to the schisms and feuds which characterize radical politics in Minneapolis. There were feuds between individuals and groups, groups and groups and individuals and individuals. It didn't help that many people from outside the Emma Center (especially kids) took advantage of poor security and unwillingness to call the cops in order to scam and steal from us. There was a gradual attrition of the fifty or so people who started Emma down to just a skeleton crew of dedicated collective members. This attrition was due to the fact that when a dispute arose, both sides of it would leave the Emma Center, regardless of who won.

Despite its short and stormy life, the Emma Center accomplished many of its goals. Emma Center distributed thousands of items of food and clothing to the people of the Powderhorn neighborhood. It also provided free daycare, every other Saturday almost to the time it shut down. And it provided an anarchist focus for distributing flyers and literature, and holding meetings and concerts.

State of the State Protest

It was a cloudy warm day for January in Michigan. There were 250 people gathering to protest the arrogant advocate for the wealthy, John Engler. It was supposed to be Engler's day in the spotlight. He was to be accompanied by obedient media talking heads; surrounded by hordes of corporate yuppies basking in the accomplishments of the past years. Those accomplishments boil down to the imprisonment of vast numbers of Michigan residents -- residents who for whatever reason had gotten dragged into the police state net. The net of barbed wire for those who don't fit our new lily white moral majority "democratic" paradise. The theft of financial resources from the poor is the bottom line, the bottom \$\$\$ line showing up in corporate boardrooms all over the country, not least of all in Michigan. It was a celebration for Engler and his fellow clowns from the Republican and Democratic Parties. It had to be spoiled.

The people who gathered for the protest of this party had an attitude problem. They weren't interested in just standing outside the Capitol Building shouting at pretentious scumbags through walls of specialty wood paneling and layers of distinctive glass brocades. They stood for a half-hour, shouting slogans and listening to angry speakers. Then the crowd, en mass, moved toward the entrances along the side of building. The invitation-only Capitol crowd was going to be joined by the angry, logical public.

Cops were deployed immediately to make sure that the public was barred from the public facility. Doors were locked, shields were put in place, teargas was readied by the guards of the police state. Local television stations, (TV 6 and TV 10) dutifully disappeared, making it easier for the cops to lie about what would happen next.

The crowd of protesters went around the side of the building to the back, closer to Engler's party. For fifteen minutes, they had control of the back lawn, and made a lot of noise. Some Democratic Party bureaucrats applauded the protesters. A combination of exclamations and gestures let those clowns know how the public felt about them. The crowd, frustrated to be unable to disrupt the orgy of greedy executives, went back to the front of the building and began hammering on the front doors. "We want in; We want in!"

After the cops reformed at the front of the building, the crowd took off to the side of the building, where some blocked traffic for awhile and some subjected the pigs and the executives and their families who were leaving the gathering to some of their own medicine; verbal abuse and a condescending attitude.

Naturally, the cops couldn't leave a gathering of protesters without using their teargas and their cuffs and their fists. At no time did the crowd damage any part of the capital or even touch any person. The cops; however, were happy to live a contradiction, especially if it means they can have power over someone. Two people who were blocking exactly one car were gassed from a distance away. They never even saw any cops. When they ran from the gas, they were arrested. The completely made-up police report said that they had been asked to leave. They had supposedly said, "Fuck you" to the cops. Basically everything stated on the police report was a lie. Both people arrested were not even on Capitol grounds when they were arrested; they had never refused to leave -- they had never even been asked to leave! They left after being shot with mace from a distance away by cops they never saw! The other exit to the parking lot was cleared at the time and the single car that they were blocking could have simply been directed to the other exit. No excessive force here!

A group from Grand Rapids was harassed and arrested long after the protest and Engler's speech was over. One teenager from the group relieved himself on a statue of a military figure on the front lawn of the Capitol. Personally, I've had the urge to do the same thing several times myself, but never had a full bladder at the right time. Little did they know, the cops were hiding in the bushes, and rushed after the urinating young man. How exciting for the grab-happy cops! When friends of this teenager inquired as to where the police were taking him, they were arrested too. The charge that they were arrested on was "Concern for another human being". Translated into Copspeak; "Obstruction of a police officer" was the charge. None of these people from Grand Rapids were read their rights or informed of the specific charge against them at the time they were imprisoned.

Bail for all the arrested was \$500 each, a ridiculous amount. Even the judge in the case, Paula Manderfield was surprised at the high bail, and reduced everyone's down to \$200.

Down with the cops! Engler must go! We're here, we're poor, get used to it!

The Police State

From the New Trend

There's been an air of confidence that borders on arrogance developing within the mainstream political pundits and ideologues lately. It's an attitude of dismissiveness and "rational" superiority to those who they deem radical. It's nowhere more clearly illustrated than in the way newswriters and politicians have been treating the supporters of Mumia Abu Jamal, an eloquent Journalist and former Black Panther on Death Row under questionable circumstances.

Newspapers like the New York Times and Wall Street Journal have accused his advocates of being enthralled with his smooth writings and emotional appeals. Elected officials and those campaigning to be have also accused supporters of being part of the so-called "Radical Chic", diminishing their beliefs as if they were a superficial style.

It's helpful to test the logic of those who criticize the Jamal movement. Let's just see whose views are naive and whose are factual. The critics of Jamal's activists have been completely accepting the account of Mumia's "crime" that they've been getting from Philadelphia's "finest". That's right: the same cops facing federal investigation right now, the same pigs who are having their arrests overturned by the hundreds now as a result of their well documented evidence-planting and corruption.

HELD THEM OFF

On the first night, residents threw bottles and rocks at police and held them off for three hours.

Police were put on tactical alert citywide. About 25 people were arrested for assault and disturbing the peace.

The next day, police arrived at a charity car wash staged by 40 of Gutierrez's friends and family to raise money for his funeral.

The police chased youths into a nearby house and arrested 10. The arrested youths were brought outside and sat down on a curb - a crowd of people gathered and began throwing bottles and setting trash on fire.

Police responded by calling in a SWAT team, which marched in a riot line to break up the protest.

Resident Robert Estroda was in a liquor store with his girlfriend when the police accused him of being a bottle-thrower. They took Estroda outside and beat him.

More than 400 mourners were present at Gutierrez's funeral on August 9, including members of the Brown Berets and the Nation of Islam.

"If they are the law, why did they kill him? I want justice," said one woman. Newly passed laws against gangs have led to a war on Black and Latino youth in this city. Jose Antonio Gutierrez was the latest victim of this ongoing war on minority youth in LA.

by ALLYSON SMITH

LOS ANGELES- Uniformed gang investigators shot dead 14-year-old Jose Antonio Gutierrez in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood here on July 29.

Gutierrez was crossing the street to get a cigarette for his mother when a police car with its lights off sped up the street.

Family members and friends who witnessed the killing from less than 20 feet away described how the car stopped and an officer, without identifying himself, opened fire.

Police claim Gutierrez was pointing a semi-automatic pistol at them.

Family and friends say Gutierrez was carrying a flashlight. "They didn't even say, 'Freeze,'" said family friend, Julie Noriega, who witnessed the shooting.

The police handcuffed the still-breathing Gutierrez--and then shot him again.

Sonia Martinez, who watched the murder from her front yard 50 feet away, said: "They shot him, handcuffed him and fired several more shots."

The cop who killed Gutierrez was cited for his record of brutality in an investigation of the Los Angeles Police Department several years ago after the police beating of motorist Rodney King. Two days of demonstrations followed the killing.



Mumia Abu-Jamal

Fascist Legislation Disguised as "Anti-Terrorism"

—chris

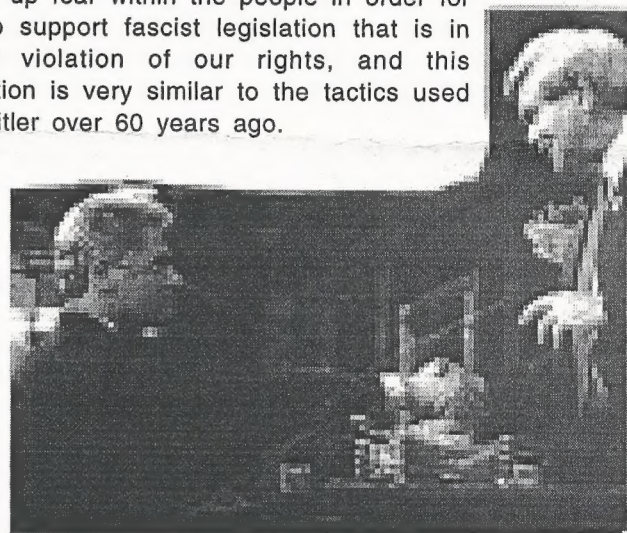
The bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City last April has given the government the perfect opportunity (i.e.—excuse) to pass what they are labeling the "anti-terrorism bill." This bill was originally passed in the Senate just two months after the bombing by a vote of 91-8, but was later killed by the House, only to be revitalized just recently (according to the House majority leader, the bill will come up in March).

The bill would make it a lot easier for federal officials to get approval for wiretapping, deporting aliens with "terrorist" links, and could prevent "terrorist-linked" groups from fund-raising, although the question of whether or not a group is linked with terrorism is solely within the opinion of the president. Also, the bill would limit most federal death-row inmates to only one appeal.

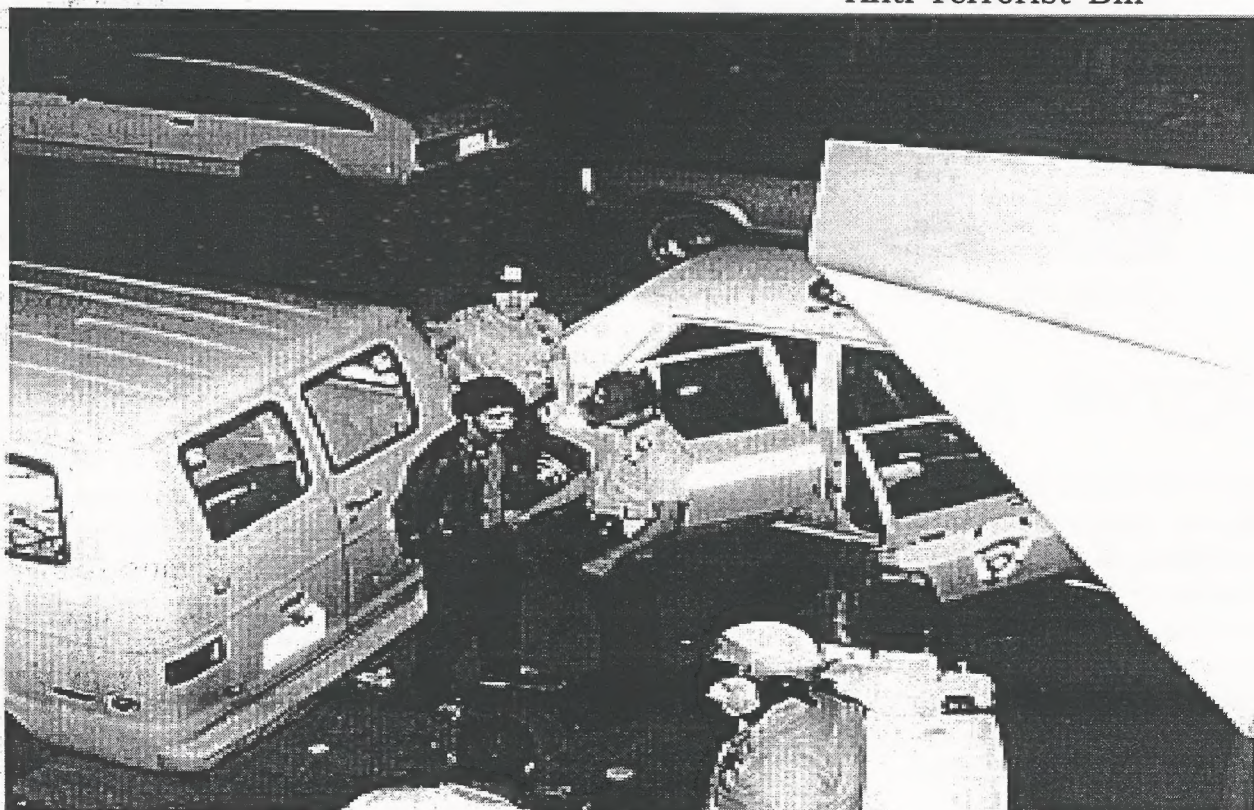
During Hitler's rise to power, the Reichstag Building (Germany's parliament building at that time) was burned down, most likely by Hitler's own goons. A Dutch communist was quickly arrested and executed for the crime, which then allowed Hitler to convince the people, as well as the parliament, to go along with some of his plans in his process of turning Germany into a fascist dictatorship, which would eventually be handed to him legally by this parliament.

It would be a stretch to say that the government was responsible for the bombing in Oklahoma City, but it is certainly taking full advantage of the situation and the fear of terrorism that the bombing has created to make unjust fascist practices legal.

The Oklahoma City bombing is being used to drum up fear within the people in order for us to support fascist legislation that is in clear violation of our rights, and this situation is very similar to the tactics used by Hitler over 60 years ago.



Architects of the Anti-Terrorist Bill



Drug War in Action

Health Care?

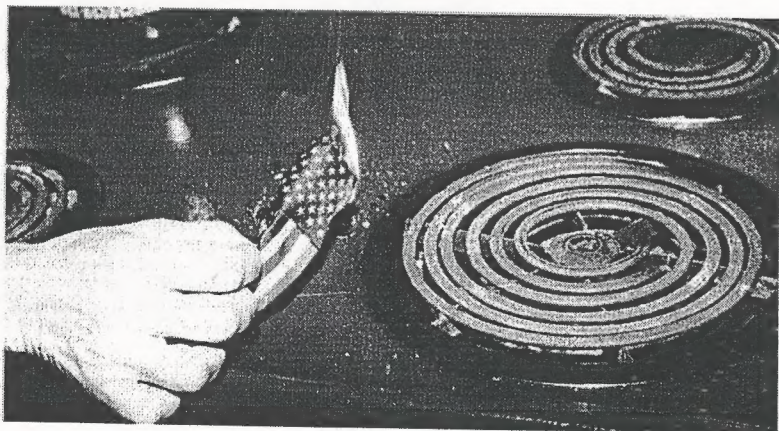
Teachers, clergymen, and Health care professionals; what do they all have in common? Their roles in our lives are similar in that we entrust them with unbelievable amounts of influence. Teachers shape our minds, clergymen develop our spirituality, and health care professionals maintain our health. We give them power over us and whenever this power is abused like it is in the American medical system it's time for a complete overhaul

Abuse comes in many forms, including negligence and parasitism. Both of these characteristics can be found in our highly overrated health care industry. Preying and profiting on people's sickness is unethical and that statement needs no qualification. It's wrong to push drugs and it's wrong for pharmaceuticals to raise prices on items necessary for survival when these items are already immensely profitable. The producers of these drugs are already well off and they shouldn't break the American working family's back with ridiculous prices. Although the suffering of the ill seems to signal pay off to them. During the eighties costs for medical drugs went up over 159%. As we speak pharmaceutical companies are spending more money on political lobbying than they are on researching cures. Much like other irresponsible corporations the drug giants are taking advantage of the average consumer. Raising prices isn't the only trick this feckless industry has up its sleeve, back when social services covered our needs more thoroughly hospitals across the nation would always require people to spend more nights as patients than they needed to, courtesy of Uncle Sam. They would also bill for sickness that weren't there in many cases. A Frontline expose revealed that most people treated for multiple personality disorder (which requires valuable therapy) had extremely generous insurance for mental disability. It is also obvious that mental health professionals abuse other patients. That's revealed in this fact alone, during the eighties Minors were institutionalized four times more than they had been in the past decade. In many cases institutions such as Rivendell have allowed parents to surrender their children for being "defiant" and even worse homosexual. Bear in mind, they are feeding, drugging, and housing the patients and at a steep price. The doctors and administrators making decisions to confine and medicate residents of their asylums are supposed to alleviate suffering, their lust for cash shouldn't interfere in the lives of their clients.

What's the point of medicine if it can't be extended to all people and what kind of human beings could reject afflicted people solely because they are impoverished? If Doctors and hospital administrators refuse to treat the indigent and those with government insurance then how are they worthy of respect? In the neighborhood surrounding the university Chicago most of the residents couldn't afford to be admitted there for treatment! I'm sure though however, the hospital would be willing to take their tax money and services. This is the case in national politics after all, nearly 60% of all public expenditures go in to the health care field. It may be though, that the 40 percent of Americans who are uninsured don't dwell on this fact too much. The fruits of our civilization should be shared by all.

Doctors are highly revered and paid six times the average wage so we should expect nothing but the highest ethical standards and flawless performance. We should also expect them to police other health care industries with their political influence. If the health care industry feels it merits extravagance then it should prove it by displaying humanity and sensibility.

By Ricky Ricardo



Domestic Protest

BROTHA MAN

Brotha say i am a man but he ain't got no plan.
so many brothas and sistas sent to de penitentiary
In a war zone fighting de wrong enemy
Locked down behind grey walls still fighting de
wrong enemy In somebody else's penitentiary.
Colors, flags and rags another racist kkkop has sniped
another brother and continues to brag.
As people shout dat ain't fair De state straps another
innocent brother in de electric chair
Damn when will we realize
dat de real enemy is on de other side

Shaka Shakur

JUST A REFUGEE

Gary, Indiana is not unlike de typical refugee kamp sprawled across de landscape of some third world countries. Only instead of searching for firewood for de kamp fire, instead of lugging buckets of water to wash and cook in, We have brothas and sistas diggin in dumpsters, panhandling and pulling jack moves.

Instead of being plagued by diseases such as Ebola, Malaria, Dysentary, etc. We are plagued by epidemics of AIDS, all forms of cancer, crack addiction, high blood pressure and just generally plagued by de disease of death. Death itself has now become a disease that all too many of our youth are catching.

Instead of living in tents or shanties with no running water, de majority live in urban concrete jungles, existing inside dilapidated locked down apartment buildings waiting for a disaster to happen. Rat-infested fire traps that kill so many kids and elderly people every year, especially in de winter season when folks are trying to stay warm.

Yeah a refugee kamp, brothas and sistas migrating from one part of de city to another. Some trying to scramble away from de reactionary violence of street organizations (gangs), some trying to scramble to de suburbs because they can no longer stand to be amongst their own. Some scrambling to where kapitalist commodities are sold in abundance, where all de stores and malls are, where all de critical services are. None are in de ghetto/kolony. And lastly, many are migrating towards where de drug markets are more lucrative - either they are dealers contributing to de problem or victims caught up in a white blizzard of crack cocaine and genocide.

Warlords, landlords, hospital wards and county morgues. Where does it end?

Running from house to house, city to city, state to state, trying to escape de madness dat you had no power to create and yet, you have de power to collectively stop it.

Killer kkkops, mindless robots, and drugs that make babies' hearts stop. Tell me, where does it end?

Sell-out politicians who only work for de morticians. Too many sisters concerned with de beautician while our kids die of malnutrition. Too many brothers chasing after that benz, instead of trying to be responsible men.

Damn! Tell me where does it end?

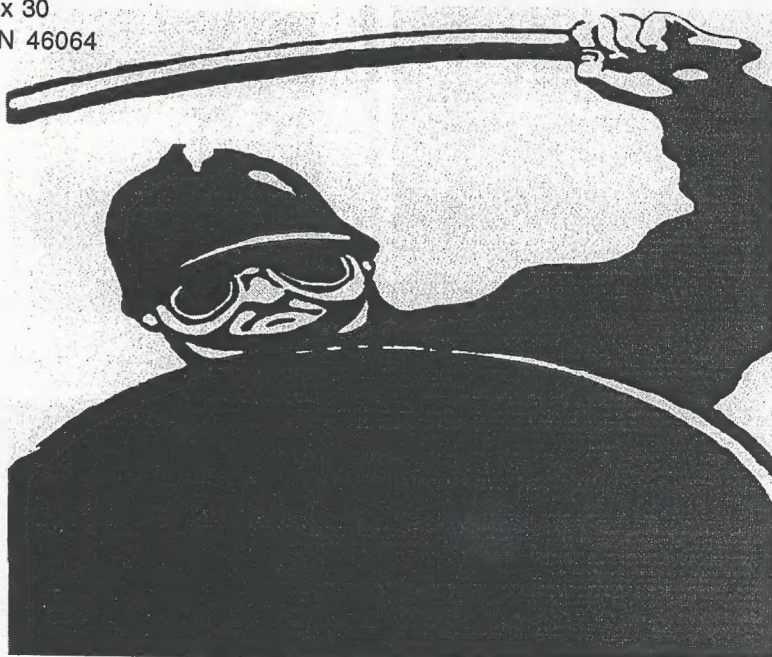
Trapped in a refugee kamp not unlike those in Kigali, Somalia, Ethiopia, Bosnia. Wasteland, free-fire zone, no substance, no life, no harmony - only a death affirming reality.

Trapped like rats in a maze. Starving for power and that which nurtures life, only to be denied and left to feed on self and kind. A terrordome left to explode. Brotha's and sista's got to create some liberated zones. Fear got to be conquered and a stand taken.

When does it end?

When we organize ourselves and put a stop to it
If not now - when?

Shaka Shakur #28443
P.O. Box 30
Pendleton, IN 46064



WHAT MANNER OF HUMAN BEING?

What manner of humanity would allow for the continued destruction of humanity? Of his,her community? Local and International?
What manner of humanity would allow fear to dominate and dictate his/her actions and consciousness?

What manner of humanity would allow cowardice to force them to turn a blind eye to the death affirming oppression, conditions and destruction they are surrounded by?

What manner of human being hypocritically cries for the kids they see dying on the evening news, but yet, do not lift a hand to help the crying and dying crack baby just down the hallway? Next door?
Just up the street?

Yeah, i wonder sometimes. what kind of human being are you when you have lost touch with your own sense of humanity.

Take a stand, be counted. Make a difference and be counted as somebody as opposed to just being counted as a dead or dying something.

Shaka Shakur 5/1/95

LITTLE BROTHER

Little brother out there struggling
trying to make it
surrounded by hatred
knowing he can't take it

not understanding why
only trying to get by
trying to escape
but it's too late

little brother
strong and wise
locked down in amerikkka
trying to survive

little brother keep your focus
because like hocus pocus
they will make your life disappear
don't get caught slippin
because you never know
what damn fool might be out there trippin

Lil brother
full of youth and hope
if one ain't strong
he won't be able to cope

keep your head up
keep de faith
because like a prophet
i foresee a brighter day

i love you lil bro

Dedicated to Michael
6-9-95
Shaka Shakur

MADNESS

Look around you and de only thing you see is
madness staring back at you.

Sista's sellin their souls, destroying their essence,
hanging on city blocks for pieces of little bitty rocks.

Brotha's snatching gold chains and blood flowing down city drains.
Damn when will it stop?!

Locked up, locked down and fucked around
and here come more killer kkkops into town!

Shot up, shot down, New Afrikan people forced underground.

Sex, drugs and death running through de hood like an epidemic,
ethnic cleansing in drag.
where is de Red Cross? Airlifts? Economic sanctions?

Kapitalist kkkrimers of infant mortality, blaming it on immorality
People have lost control of their damn sexuality.

Damn! Make you want to
SCREAM, SCREAM, SCREAM, SCREAM, SCREAM

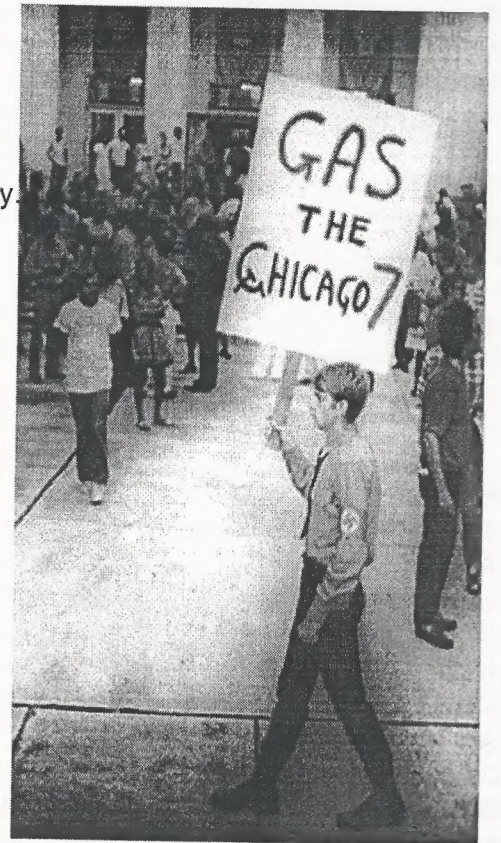
People got to get a grip
All of this madness remind me of de first slave ship.

A genocidal plan, camouflaged nazi running all across the land.
People got to take a stand and uncover this imperialist hand.

Shaka Shakur



Police Brutality



David Duke not so long ago

Corporate Feudalism?

In the Medieval age as a surf you worked and lived according to the wishes of the nobility. You slaved away, your hands bled. The lords ignored your voice, your toils went unappreciated, you had no representation. Every minute of rest and every bit of food you had came from the lord of the manor. Through smoke and mirrors he convinced you that you were dependent on him. In short, YOU were subservient to the man who was benefiting off of YOUR labor. Now it's the 1990's. The Nobility is the international investing class and the slaves are the working class and peasants.

The former rulers never completely relinquished their hold. Transnational corporations own over 40 percent of all assets. Wealthy families still pull the strings of governments worldwide. The powerful ranchers and businessmen of Mexico are the defense contractors and media conglomerates of America. Now having had a previously complacent working class, international stockholders are making an offensive to claim all rights and resources of the global community. This is done by reducing worker's rights, laying claim to all resources, and taking all privilege earned through our struggles. They are prepared to go through with these actions with deadly seriousness.

Even though in the U.S. 17 workers die on the job and 137 perish of job related illnesses daily, forcing workers to give up standards of safety and benefits can be done quite easily. With the threat to move to China, Idonesia, or Mexico (these are police states which liberal nations are being forced to emulate) General Welfare is being cut back worldwide so that coporations don't have to make any concessions to the public. In the age of the New Global Economy the motto seems to be "more for less". The owners of industry will invest where they have free reign over natural resources and militarily enforced control of labor. Having granted all these concessions, workers will still feel dependent because the good owners are kind enough not to relocate. Therefore, their livelihood is granted by the megaemployer who controls all jobs and resources.

Wealthy individuals and corporations have always held, for the most part, the only voice in the political system. Although everyone could speak, only the rich and powerful were heard. On those rare occasions when the people were heard major progress was made. However, "Lobby Tax Reform" threatens to end a large part of the public forum by preventing benevolent functions of the state from influencing legislation. It also taxes nonprofit organizations who have political clout if they fail to meed rigid criteria. This would eliminate even the pretense of a government that's not completely under the thumb of large enterprises. There is also the assault on P.B.S. and N.P.R. to remind us of what happens when you practice scholarly journalism instead of creating mindless and sentimental bullshit favorable to decadent ears. All the rights to free speech that we'd struggled for are slowly being eroded. People are now even starting to speak of the flag in a way that they might have referred to the crown.

Repression is being enacted in all forms whether against open communication or enforcing economic austerity. But the ugliest form of this manifestation comes in the method of physical oppression. When the lower tier of the working class revolts it usually comes in the form of a riot or street crime and it's often fratricidal. This is responded to with incarceration. The workers in the upper tier usually are confronted on the picket line by hired pinkertons and if need be the police or militia. They were usually treated less brutally, but this is no longer the case. The general consensus is that it's time to crackdown and make sacrifices and that unions are just going to have to adjust by way of baton blows to the head. The good old days are over. If one takes a look at how cops deal with unionists and squatters or any other organized and autonomous groups they'll see an army rather than a civilian agency. Just a few months ago squatters in New York were evicted by pigs toting M-60's and driving armored vehicles. In Brazil those who took over unoccupied land owned by the government were massacred and dispersed by commandoes of the Brazilian Army. Democracy. Just as it was in ancient Europe, is for those who are officially landed.

The final stage may very well be near. With all the mergers happening so rapidly, it's a matter of time before our basic needs are monopolized. If Agribusiness buys pharmaceuticals which in turn buy real estate our lifestyles could be owned by a conglomerate. Any rules preventing heavy concentration are being done away with now. Soon, you may have to accept whatever task you are given in exchange for any of these things; like a sharecropper you're constantly in debt.

The second Dark Age is a possibility but it doesn't have to be a reality. International solidarity and proletarian control of production would end corporate tyranny as we know it. The proposal may not be as "wild" as you think. With an increasingly diverse population and utter contempt for authority developing from all dynamics of the population there is hope for a revolution which breeds equality and autonomy. If we don't fight back we're subject to multinational feudalism.

Ricky Ricardo

HOSTILE TAKEOVER

A lot of times when We hear de words "Hostile Takeover" or "Hostile Bid" We think of some large rich kkkapitalist kkkorporation trying to take over or consume another one. One kkkorporation trying to either get a piece of, or monopolize a particular market. It may be AT&T warring against MCI, or IBM against Microsoft, or GM against Honda, etc. Usually de only casualties are millions of dollars, stock holders, shares, boards of directors, etc.

We got hostile takeovers playing out everyday in de ghetto and you ain't reading about it on Wall Street. You ain't counting shares in de Journal. We counting bodies and it's in de obituary section of your local paper.

We ain't counting how much a share of stock went up or down. We counting de up and down of de age of de latest victim. De up and down of de death rate of a generation, of a nation!

What do kkkapitalist kkkorporations, street organizations and imperialist governments all have in common? All function on one of de same principles - monopoly/dominance.

An imperialist power like de u.s. will invade Panama so that it can keep control of de Panama Canal. It will invade and kolonize other countries to protect its so-called strategic interest. Usually this interest is access to some key body of water or shipping lane, or minerals or oil inside de occupied country. This land might also be strategical for military purposes where naval, airforce and army bases can be built. Bases that can be used as launching pads to carry out further imperialist kkkrimess against other sovereign nations.

Street organizations operate in de same manner as nation states. They have their own flags, customs and culture. They have their own military and political structure - with their own cabinet positions. When these street organizations target a community, target a territory for kolonizing, they do so on de same principle as de imperialist. Such as that makes this area strategic or beneficial to de state organization.

A particular community might have several main avenues running through it. Avenues that, if controlled, allow one to sell their products. Avenues with traffic flowing one way allows one to not only be on de look out for enemy troop movement, but it also allows for carjackings, robberies at red lights, kidnappings and retaliatory strikes. Its de Panama Canal or Persian Gulf of de ghetto. You can't call in NATO, but can call in a unit, a crew of homies of lil g's to pull a hit.

Prior to seizing these areas de markets are read. Just like a medical patient. De community pulse is taken. Instead of Wall Street, you look at how many junkies, sistas and brothas are buying your product. You look at de Gross National Product of your crack houses. You see how high de returns are from your street hustlers, your retailers, and retail outlets. If de demand is strong, if de market is strong and lucrative, you move your troops in. If de demand is up, de supply must go up.

De community won't know what hit it. Suddenly drive-bys are more frequent. De writing on de walls is more lively and de death rate is up. Death rate up, birth rate down. Anotha New Afrikan community wired for sound. A hostile takeover in full effect.

Once again instead of stocks and bonds. We are losing mothers, fathers, daughters and sons. Instead of software, computers, automobiles and oil - it's drugs, weapons and straight up reactionary violence.

In places like Beruit, Somalia, Sudan, Bosnia, etc. you see armies and clans fighting for land and control over de resources of that land. In Beruit kids grow up joining Hizbullah, Christian or Muslim militias and they wage war based on their politics and ideology.

In de ghetto kolonies of imperialist amerikkka, Our kids grow up and join de Crips, Bloods, Folks, Kings, etc. and they wage war for territory and control over de drug economy. They fight to monopolize de underground economy that centers around the drug economy that is de product of a kolonial relationship.

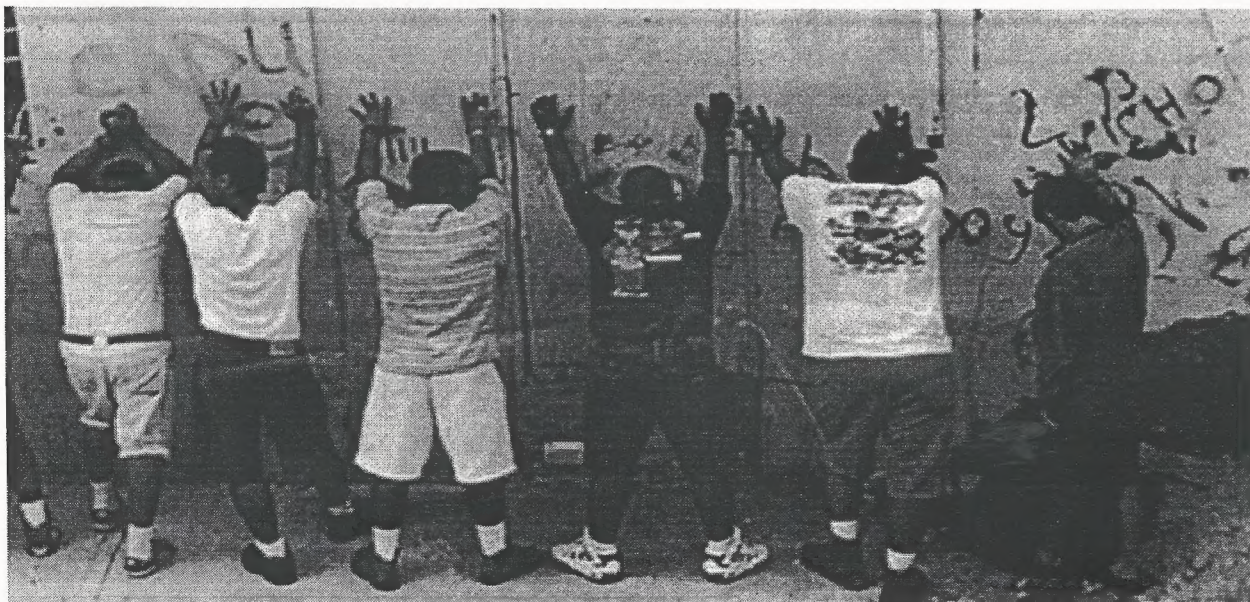
Due to de fact that We have no real political or economical power within de u.s. power structure - which is a result of de u.s. subjugation of de New Afrikan nation and de seizure of Our means of production, Our ability to produce for Ourselves as a people - They have created a situation where a backwards and death affirming economy exist in Our community. When you don't have de ability and/or resources to perform a IBM takeover you must grab your AK-47 or Tec-9 and go for de next best thing. When you don't know who your enemy is, then anyone will do.

These brothers and sisters are functioning like nation-states and We have to deal with them like nation states when trying to organize them. We have to struggle for a moratorium on violence. We have to call summits and most of all We have to organize some real U.N. troops and declare liberated zones. We have to implement real international law and sanction those who violate it. At some point We have to reclaim Our children from de clutches of a sick system and society. De anti-social behavior We see manifesting in our kids doesn't exist in de abstract, Our children are a product of a social reality, an environment that is geared towards expediting their destruction as human beings. If We don't take a stand and fight back, who will?

In de spirit of struggle and sacrifice but surrender? - Never!!

RE-BUILD!

Shaka Shakur #28443
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There Once was a College Republikkan...

a short story

--chris

Meet Dick. Dick is a Young College Republikkan. Dick is a frat boy. Dick doesn't have a job. Dick is a rich white kid whose parents pay for everything he needs. Dick's dad is a real estate investor who get paid a lot of money off of other people for making phone calls. Dick looks down on all the poorer, more productive people in the society and calls them lazy and stupid. Whenever there is a Republikkan politician in town, Dick will go and wave his amerikan flag and cheer along. "Cut Medicare! Cut Welfare! Cut Students' Financial Aid!" the politicians will say, and Dick will cheer along and yell, "yeah! yeah! yeah!" Dick goes to his Political Science classes and argues with all his fellow students. "What do you mean the Gulf War wasn't justified? If you don't like this country, get the hell out!", Dick will say. Dick hates poor people. Dick hates just about anyone who wasn't born into a wealthy, carefree lifestyle like him. Dick doesn't like the fact that poor people get money from the government for food, clothing, and shelter. Dick doesn't like the fact that kids who can't afford to go to college get money for school from the government. Dick would much rather see all that money being spent on a new B-2 stealth bomber that doesn't work and will never be used.

Dick goes to the polls on election day and votes for Bob Dole for President, and all of the other Republican candidates who are running for offices here in Michigan and in Washington. Dick cheers as he sees on TV that all the candidates that he voted for got elected to their offices. Dick cheers again as they announce that all Medicare, welfare, and student financial aid will all be cut completely. Dick rallies to get minimum wage lowered, saying that people who do "lowly" jobs don't deserve that much money. "Alright," says Dick, "now we're back in control."

One day, Dick's dad made some really bad investments and lost all his money. Dick was told he had to drop out of school because his dad could no longer afford tuition. Dick sends a letter to the financial aid office, but it gets sent back to him, saying that the office no longer exists. Dick has to drop out of school.

Now Dick is out of school and living in the inner city projects. Dick's dad applies for welfare but then remembers that Dick helped rally to get welfare cut. Dick gets a job at McDonald's and works for a minimum wage of \$2.50 an hour. Dick is now down on his luck, living in poor conditions without any help from anyone.

Then one day, Dick got really fucked. Just when Dick thought it couldn't get any worse, after new troubles arose in the Middle East, Dick is drafted by the army, sent off to war, and killed.

Now Dick is dead.



"Dick"

Welfare Reform

by Jo Dohoney

In the midst of the current deadlock over the national budget, Congress is accomplishing one thing: they are moving inexorably toward what they refer to as welfare reform. Having carefully prepared the American public with a long campaign of misinformation and misdirection, our government expects to have our full support and agreement as it guts aid programs designed to help the more unfortunate of us.

The large outline of the reform is to relinquish federal control of the aid programs to the states, and to put a two year lifetime cap on benefits for any American finding her/himself in need. The result of state control will ultimately be a patchwork of varying programs, but most will include cutting aid to women having a child on welfare and to pregnant teens, and workfare programs that benefit low-wage employers and reduce wages for all workers.

These "reforms" are not good for families, not good for workers, and not good for our futures or our Karma. These outcomes are the elephant in the living room that no one sees. We cannot see this due to the misinformation and misdirection we have been subjected to for many years. The belief that we owed something socially to aid the poor, common in the sixties and early seventies, has been replaced with a more mean-spirited dogma that we are able to maintain by becoming schizophrenic, that is to say, by learning to be of two minds. When I mention the word "welfare" in my courses on social inequality and on welfare policy, I am treated to the spectacle of a roomful of decent, bright and sweet students becoming an ugly, snarling mob. Kids, most of whom have yet to depend upon their own work for survival, begin snarling about THEIR TAX DOLLARS and WELFARE WHORES, and how they don't care if these scum starve to death. The transformation would be startling, if I had not seen it each time I teach these classes. In order to return them momentarily to their more natural state of human decency, all I have to do is ask them to close their eyes, and meditate briefly on the ethical or religious training of their childhoods. Then I ask the question, again, that started the uproar: what should we do for the poor? Their answers this time, coming from their own ethical training, are usually more kind and humane, and their snarling visages have relaxed into more peaceful and beatific lines. This transformation is also startling but, I know that I cannot expect them to remain in this state of grace. They have learned to separate their minds and feelings: one set for the spiritual self, to be used on the appropriate sabbaths and holy days; and another set for the political self, to be used in questions of politics. This schizophrenia is what allows us to see our selves as "good fill-in-the-blank-your-particular-faith-ideology-or-worldview" on the one hand, while either passively or actively supporting social policies that are petty, mean-spirited and destructive on the other.

Reuniting our good selves with our political selves is just a first step towards creating social policies that are more positive, but that alone is not enough. We still have the legacy of a lack of accurate information about welfare policy and what it does, a gap that politicians have filled with misinformation which misdirects public frustration and anger. Very few Americans know much about welfare policy, yet they believe that they do, as do my students who are quick to tell me how a bunch of lazy, good-for-nothing whores are sucking up vast amounts of tax dollars and creating generation after generation of bloodsuckers while the rest of us suffer.

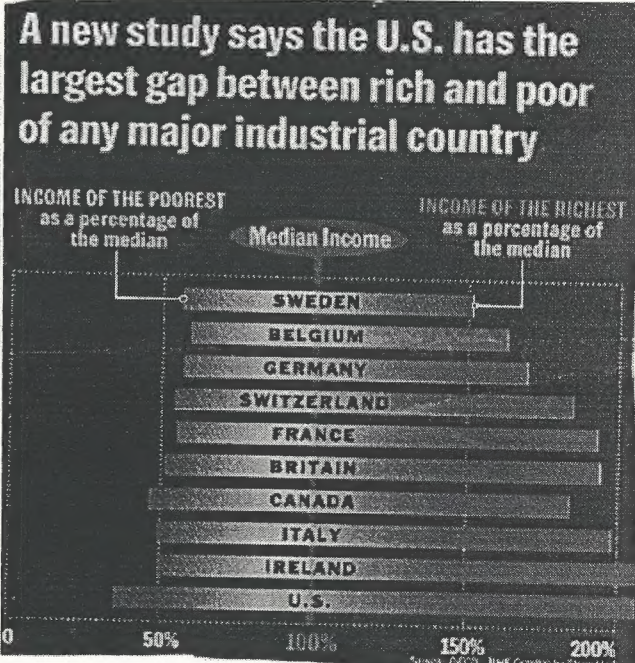
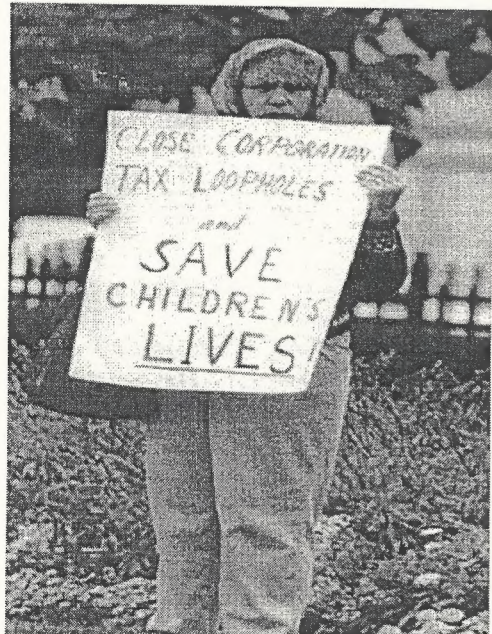
The facts are these (and I invite you to look them up yourselves): most welfare recipients are unemployed and underemployed families with children. The majority of welfare recipients need the aid intermittently to ride out a family crisis, such as an illness or injury, loss of a job, or loss of a wage-earner in the family through death, desertion or divorce. They are largely the working poor who have no other social safety net when their job disappears, when they are sick or when their partner leaves them. Most are raising children, an important social function, which we do not want to honor with sufficient aid, but we will complain about the lack of it when poor children must raise themselves while we force their mothers into low-paying deadend workfare jobs. Most recipients use aid intermittently for a total of less than 5 years, but will need it for a total of more than two years in their lifetimes.

Curiously, most of us know these facts in our hearts but not in our heads. We all know a friend or relative who had some calamity land them in the welfare office; and for their sakes, we were glad that welfare existed, because they are deserving of the aid. We know that they will not depend upon it for longer than necessary and that they will return this investment back to society by raising their children well and by returning to the work force when they are able, or by marrying a worker and caring for that person's needs, making them more productive in their economic social roles. For these friends and loved ones, no amount of aid would be generous enough, given their sufferings.

The problem is that in our heads is another distinctly different picture: this picture is of the poor (read black) young (read teenaged) mother (read slut who has a much more varied and interesting sex life than we do). The woman in this picture sells her food stamps for drugs, booze and cigarettes while still having enough left over to make us angry in the supermarket checkout line by buying potato chips, pop, or a piece of meat with those food stamps. She neglects her children who then run loose in the streets to become the next generation of bums, winos, druggies, burglars, stick-up men, pimps and whores.

The media and the politicians help us keep this last picture firmly in mind, even though the majority of those on aid are exactly like that friend or loved one on aid. In fact, they use this picture to convince us that our loved ones would not have to live so badly while on aid, if only it weren't for that largely fictional horde of welfare cheats and whores. So, we are champing at the bit to see what slimy worm we can elect who will end this problem by cutting aid to the bone and adding on expensive and inappropriate programs to shame and discourage that horde of welfare cheats from ever thinking of returning to the public trough. And we are told that it will reduce our tax liability, leaving us more money to spend on our own families. Sure, our own friend or loved one will have to be sacrificed on the altar of this reform, but it is for the greater good, right?

This curious myopia, of seeing the largely mythic welfare cheat instead of the friend/loved one fallen on hard times whenever the topic comes up, leads us to elect people who flog the term "family values" while emiserating scores of families and children, not unlike your own. And instead of a tax cut, which most of us never see in reality, we get a wage cut, as cuts in welfare mean a reduction in the social wage and ultimately in the price we can demand for our own labor. And instead of doing the right thing, we get a society that acts, in our names, to shame and punish those whom our religions told us to help. And instead of a safer and more prosperous future, we get one filled with malnourished, unskilled, and underemployed people. This was not who we were supposed to be, and this is not the behavior we were told to emulate by our God, whoever we conceive God to be, a Hairy Thunderer or a Cosmic Muffin. If we stand by, this is our Karma, to be spiritually torn and socially tattered because we were of two minds, and because we let the one created for us rule over our own knowledge and better instincts.



Prisons

Repression -- Repression -- Repression Is the Prison Officials' Response to Rising Awareness

--by Talib Becktemba

Revolutionary Greetings,

I am a New Afrikan politically conscious prisoner being held kaptive in one of Indiana's most racist and repressive koncentration kamps known as the "Indiana Youth Center." Don't be taken in by the name of this racist institution because it is truly not reflective of the degrading existence which is a never ending reality for those being held kaptive there.

Currently I am being held isolated from prisoners in regular population and made a target of state repression because of my revolutionary ideals and my selective efforts to raise awareness and expose the atrocities to which we are being subjected to on a daily basis at the hands of the administrative officials.

The cycle of violence, brutality, and degradation aimed at prisoners is not a new issue. However, what is changing is the Administrative Officials' justifications for these harsh and brutal tactics and the consequences we now have to suffer for exposing their injustices. As an organizer, I have worked with many revolutionary elements while I was held kaptive in several other repressive prisons in Indiana. And we have been successful in establishing structures designed to generate a revolutionary consciousness and inspire progressive activity. Now because of the growing receptivity amongst the victims of this whole oppressive process, I have been targeted by Administrative Officials and these have been the results:

On November 1, 1995 after leaving a visit with a progressive advocate who works with prisoners to expose the harshness of prison existence and who also monitors and works to abolish control units, I was escorted by two prison guards to see investigators Collins and Novak where they soon questioned me about my prison activity and accused me of being a leader. After refusing to answer their questions, I was handcuffed by the two prison guards present and informed that I was being locked up on administrative hold pending transfer to a more secure prison because I was a threat to the safety and security of their institution and that there exists a possible threat to my safety. However, when I challenged this and demanded that they produce some evidence of me being a threat to the safety and security of their institution and further demanded to see evidence of an alleged threat to my safety, the administration refused to respond and has not produced anything to support either claim.

Then on November 2, 1995 while on lock up pending this transfer, the two investigators Collins and Novack went through my personal property and confiscated approximately 40-50 books dealing with Afrikan history, politics, and the establishment of New Afrikan revolutionary movements. No initial justification was given for seizing this property and when I requested to send it home, I was told that it was sent to their Central Office for careful review. Since then, investigators Collins and Novak have stopped my incoming and outgoing mail and have confiscated several books sent in to me through the mail as subversive material. And this cycle of harassment continues today. I am seeking the support of all who read this article and am requesting that you write letters of protest to the below listed people and demand an end to this blatant harassment and demand that I be given back my books and returned to population. Write to:

Christopher Meloy
Superintendent of I.Y.C.
727 Moon Road
Plainfield, IN 46168

Christian DeBruyn
Commissioners Office
302 W. Washington, Room E334
Indianapolis, IN 46204



If we are going to be successful in overcoming a lot of the obstacles which we are constantly confronted with, we are going to have to start forming united fronts and establish bases of support through which we can collectively support each other and combat enemy aggression. For more information, please contact me personally at: Talib Becktemba, 852597, 727 Moon Road, Plainfield, IN 46168.

Moving forward!



THE VOICE OF KHALFAN KHALDUN FROM THE BOWELS OF M.C.C.

As in all control units, pig oppression is a constant norm in its occupants' lives and struggles against pig violation, pig disrespect, and overt harassment. In late January early February, the man behind the vision of Indiana's MCC unit, Charles Wright, a neo-kolonialist, was relieved from his present position as Superintendent. The replacee was yet another neo-kkkolonialist whose attempts to be a bit liberal, the state promoted as positive change.

A lot of basic changes have gradually been made, basically as an attempt to pacify us. But when you really look at it, what could be done isn't, like allowing those of us to buy typewriters who need them for legal work. They have instead allowed us to partake in the follies of sugar candy and junk food. One's health is deteriorating by only having 1 hour of recreation, and they want us to partake in our own bad health by consuming all this salt, sugar, and some swine products. In an attempt to divide and conquer, M.C.C. has separated pods into good/bad sections. When you've been good to accept the blatant disrespect for 11 months, you're moved to a second pod. Those who aren't good, and conduct report ridden, are refused entry to another set. So as I see it now, M.C.C. has attempted to create an atmosphere of cowardice, destined to fail for sure.

The night when I was transferred here from the Indiana State Prison, someone corrected an officer. Some 20 days later, I was informed that a great deal of my political library and study materials were destroyed. I've been accused of murder, and in retaliation the pigs at ISP/MCC, as a way of getting back, literally kidnapped all my stuff. I filed suit on the Indiana State Prison and MCC, where it just recently won by default. Indiana State Prison managed to evade charges; placing all the blame on MCC property room officer Glen Gipson. This pig has expressed his hatred for me, and Afrikan people like me. He was ordered to pay \$1000 for the damages of my property. He has been an MCC bad boy for 2 years running at this property room, completely disrespecting everybody's belongings.

He, Glen Gipson, was just 2 weeks ago discharged from his duties as property officer due to our constant complaints about his blatant racist attitudes - Now this officer has waged harassment on all the prisoners here that he doesn't like. As we come out to rec, he waits until we are served in our locations, and then he goes and

turns over everything inside the cells we occupy. Today, 11-11-95, I was the victim of this racist pig. He took some jars, oranges, sugar packets for my coffee, and some sandwich bags. As a result of my anger at this disrespect, I said to him, "Death needs no invi -tation", clearly wanting him to know this shit's going to stop. While in the shower, he was heard by one of the rades that he wants to provoke me to attack him so that he can get me for battery. I am only one voice, but I speak for those who don't have access to the outlets I do. We, as a collective, need the support of phone calls/letters to be sent to this prison's Supt. Herbert Newkirk in a fury to stop this shit.

cont'd on page 11

Active Transformation #8
PO Box 6746
East Lansing, MI 48826

April/May '96

Lorenzo Stone-Bey

LORENZO STONE-BEY WAS ARRESTED when he was 17. The arresting officer, the trial judge, and the Attorney General of Indiana each admit that his arrest was illegal, without probable cause or an arrest warrant. That didn't matter in Indiana's criminal justice.

He was arrested on February 25, 1976. The affidavit for probable cause for his arrest was not filed until March 1, 1976. The arrest warrant was not served until April 1, 1976. They didn't have a case against him, so he was detained, hidden from his family, deprived of his juvenile rights, so they could create one. The arresting officer told the Grand Jury hearing on March 29, 1976, that Lorenzo was 17. Yet at his trial in October 1976, the same officer claimed he thought Lorenzo was 19. This is out and out perjury!

When Lorenzo was placed in a lineup on February 25 and 26, 1976, he was the only one required to wear an orange jacket similar to the one worn by one of the robbers. Two days earlier, on February 23, 1976, witness John Means had identified a co-defendant as one of the robbers. When he saw Lorenzo wearing the orange jacket in the lineup, he changed his identification to him. Another tactic was having county sheriff's handcuff Lorenzo in court, in full view of the jury, inflaming and prejudicing them.

With three co-defendants, Lorenzo was convicted on two counts of first degree murder. Co-defendant Elliot James was identified by two witnesses as the person who initiated the robbery at Mona's Bar in Gary, Indiana. They said he pointed a gun in their faces, announced a stick-up, and made them get on the floor. At this point, Lorenzo was trapped in the back of the place talking with a friend of his stepfather. By the time he got up front, the shooting was over and Elliot James had fled.

At his guilty plea hearing, the State of Indiana allowed James to change his statements several times, giving him a sentence of 15-25 years in exchange for turning state's evidence. He admitted in court that he pled guilty to save his own neck and avoid a life sentence, that Gary police had threatened his life if he didn't, and that police and prosecutors falsified his statements to implicate Lorenzo and the other co-defendants. When called to testify against Lorenzo, James refused. The State then declared him a hostile witness and read into evidence his entire guilty proceedings.

Police did not have fingerprints from the gun nor test for powder burns on Lorenzo. The medical examiner reported a .32 caliber weapon in the right hand of the murder victim and a .22 caliber weapon lying by his left knee. The .22 caliber gun came up missing, was never found or produced at trial, was never accounted for. Lorenzo's attorney should have objected to any evidence or testimony concerning the lost gun since the state was not able to produce it. What happened to it? Nowhere in the indictment, the probable- cause affidavit, the Grand Jury testimony, the medical examiner's report, and

the trial testimony does it state what sort of weapon or caliber or bullet was involved in the shooting. The prosecutor admitted at the Grand Jury hearing that they did not know who fired the fatal shot.

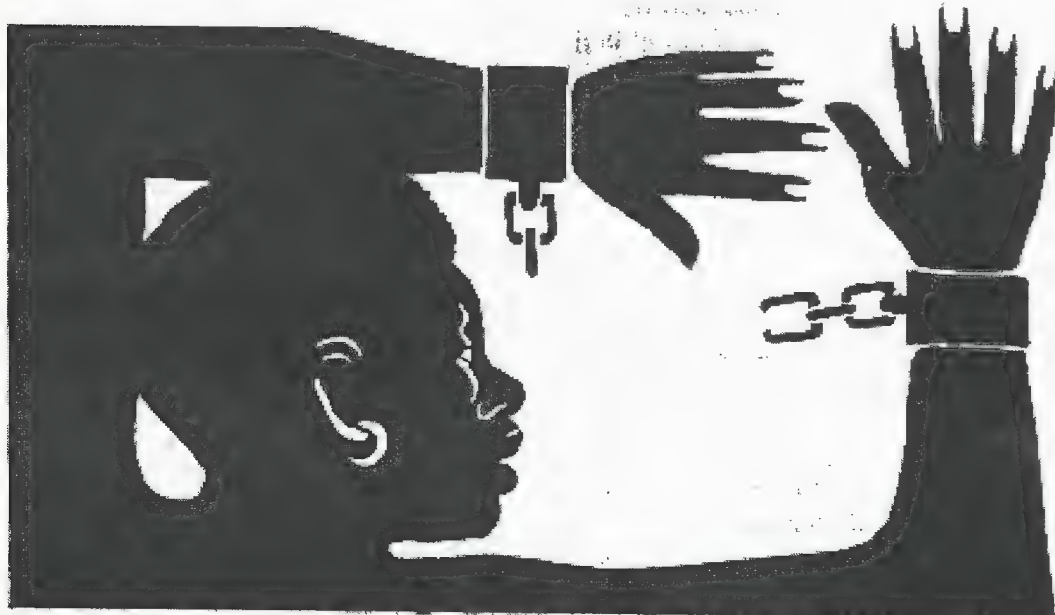
The victim's brother was a State Senator at the time and is now County Commissioner and Chairman of the Democratic Party in Gary, Indiana. One of the jurors, Herman McKissack, was his insurance agent. Another juror, Christian Kartokrax, was a Cedar Lake police officer. Did the police destroy the actual murder weapon and the facts about it because they had to get a conviction faster and had to cover up the identity of the real murderer? The strange gaps in the evidence, the inconsistent testimony of witnesses and defendants, the missing gun, the absence of fingerprints and tests for powder burns -- all point to the desire to get a quick conviction, not to seek the truth or secure justice.

Lorenzo's trial attorney, on the other hand, failed to investigate the case, did not prepare a defense, did not disclose to the jury the inconsistent testimony of witness John Means or the perjury of the arresting officer, and waived opening and closing statements to the jury. Where did this attorney come from? Lorenzo's stepfather hired him! Is it a coincidence that the step father was dating the owner of the place that was robbed? Was Lorenzo in a no-win situation from the start?

The Federal District Court denied Lorenzo's writ of habeas corpus on February 23, 1995, but felt compelled to state, "This court ... must confess that this case is a very close call. The record here tilts ever so slightly against this Petitioner." Lorenzo is filing an appeal to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago. He is now in the 20th year of the life sentence he received.

-Lorenzo Stone-Bey,

10006, P.O. Box 41/ D-239, Michigan City, IN 46360-0041



Khalfani Khaldun...

cont'd from page 10

There are more cases of this pig's racism. He has literally spit in guys' food, and not been removed from his duties. As we all know a "click" exists throughout these kkkolonial kkkamps. This pig Gipson is a professed neo-klansman, who must sit on the board in this section of this city's klan family, because his harassments/attacks on us are being covered up. The grievance program is a joke. So our choice is to go outside for the support we need to expose these racist pigs. Outside pressure is what's needed. As I said earlier, please make some calls and write some letters, or this racist pig will continue these attacks on all of us. There is great potential around me, as these men refuse to be degraded any longer as I truly do. So before these racist pigs kill one of us let's charge them with the violations while there's still time.

So in closing, we need your help as I'm only one voice, but I express the emotions of the many. Struggle forward. Ona Move.

Self-Determination

Bro. Khalfani Khaldun
#874304 Supermax
POB 557
Westville, IN 46391

To stop the harassment of these men: Khalfani Kaldun, Vernon Thomas, Kieran Daniels, Mario Holsinger, Jimmy Jones, Larry Williams and Paul Sparks; write or call:
cont'd from p. 5

Herbert Newkirk
MCC
POB 557
Westville, IN 46391 ph#219-785-2554 fax#219-785-6136

Commissioner Christian Debruyn
302 W. Washington
Indianapolis, IN 46204

We need your support. To support Khalfani Kaldun in his attempts to exonerate himself from this charge of murder, he can be reached at:

BCAC	POB 1513
POB 93312	Gary, IN
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	46402
53203	

or at his defense committee:

SUPPORT US ALL
KHALFANI KHALDUN'S TRIAL BEGINS 8-8-95 edited,
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POB 25103
MONCTON, NB
E1C 9M9
CANADA



TWENTY YEARS OF GOVERNMENT COVER-UP AND LIES -- THE CASE OF LEONARD PELTIER

Twenty years may seem as a long time to a man falsely imprisoned to cover up the misdeeds of the government. The missing of the growth of his children, only being able to see them once in a while within the cage his captors hold him. The experiences of family, time missed walking upon the earth, all lost to the reality of cold concrete and hardened steel bars. Though we live in troubled times where many have begun to question the government's use of their police forces for political ends, few among the powerful people have raised their voice to acknowledge the crimes against Leonard Peltier and the original people of this land. When white people are the victims of governmental abuse, the politicians and the media will hound the case endlessly. When Native people are the victims, inquiries are met with the silences of denial. The hearts of white society bleed over their crimes of a hundred years ago against the Original people. Many books are written and read; movies are made and apologies given. What white society fails to acknowledge is that these crimes have continued, unhindered to this day. What of the continuing ethnic cleansing currently taking place? The violation of treaty rights? What of the Dine of Big Mountain, the Western Shoshone and what of Leonard Peltier? As long as Leonard remains imprisoned atonement cannot be achieved!

This past June 26 marked the twentieth anniversary of what some have come to call the "Incident at Oglala." Twenty years of lies and cover-up by the United States of America. Though some seek to isolate what happened as a single incident, the fact of the matter is that what happened twenty years ago was part of a continuing policy of genocide. It began with the invasion of Lakota land, continued through the murderous campaign of conquest and the suppression of the traditional Lakota people, the theft of the Black Hills, the gold and uranium mining, the contamination of the rivers and ground water. White society turned a deaf ear and the only resistance was found from the traditional people. When the government's genocidal policies of forced boarding schools, outlawing traditional religion and forced poverty did not work they resorted to the creation of a death squad. Yes, America, the U.S. Government created a death squad to carry out its political policy! In the few years after the Wounded Knee standoff, hundreds of traditional people and American Indian Movement members were murdered, wounded and imprisoned. Faced with this onslaught, the traditional Lakota people asked AIM for their help. An AIM camp was set up and on that day twenty years ago the government staged an event with the purpose of crushing all resistance to its criminal conspiracy. In the battle that took place, two FBI agents and one Native warrior died. The government, outraged that the oppressed desired to fight back and that two of its agents lost their lives, began a campaign of terror and murder to make the oppressed pay for their resistance.

Three AIM members were targeted. The first two went on trial and were found not guilty for the reason of self-defense. Leonard was then the one to take the full force of the government's attack. He was extradited from Canada with the use of false affidavits and lying statements. His trial was taken away from the original judge and his case given to a judge who had a long history of racism against Native people. He was convicted in a show trial that included fabricated evidence and coerced witnesses. His defense was not allowed to present the true story of the government's crimes against the Lakota people; and that on that day Leonard and the other people there only defended themselves from a murderous attack. He was sent to prison for two life terms and the government hoped that this would be the end of this affair. But through the years courageous lawyers took up Leonard's case and filed appeal after appeal to the higher courts only to be turned down. American justice was not meant to apply to those who stood up to the political crimes of the United States of America. Also, many other brave people came out in support of Leonard, some devoting their lives in the search for justice. Rather than Leonard's conviction being the end of the matter, it became a starting point of one of the longest and largest campaigns for justice seen in U.S. history. The government, through its agents of the FBI, had their own campaign for justice to be denied. There is a risk in seeking justice, and many have been silenced by fear. The campaign for justice for Leonard is stronger now than ever before. People around the world have spoken out for justice for Leonard. We ask you to please add your voice to this struggle. For Leonard's struggle is more than just a struggle about justice for one man, more than just a struggle over the history of genocide of the original people. It is also a struggle to end the government's policy of oppression for political, economic and social ends. Anyone who speaks out is at risk as long as Leonard is in prison. Thus, this injustice to Leonard is an injustice to all. For Leonard is in prison for us, and we should be out there for him. And to the government we ask: If there is truth in any of your words, why is it that you fear a fair and truthful hearing of the events that took place twenty years ago?

The campaign for justice for Leonard continues on many levels. First, there is the campaign for Executive Clemency. Please write and call President Clinton: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington D.C., 20500; telephone (202)456-1111, FAX (202) 456-2461) and voice your support for clemency.

Next, there is a call for an investigation by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Please write letters in support of this to: Mary Frances Barry, Chair. Cruz Reynoso, Vice Chair, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Washington D.C. 20425.

Also, please write to your local Congressperson asking them to support the campaign for justice for Leonard. Here in the Tacoma area please write to Rep. Norm Dicks, 1717 Pacific Ave., Tacoma WA 98402 (206) 593-6536, and ask him to support the clemency plea. Ask him why he refuses to meet with supporters of Leonard, why he refuses to answer our letters and phone calls. Internationally there continues to be demonstrations, walks, fasts and benefits for Leonard, please come out for these events. If you can, please help us organize them. We need all the help we can get. Also please send in a donation to help with this struggle. For more information or to send donations, write to: THE LEONARD PELTIER DEFENSE COMMITTEE, P.O.BOX 583, LAWRENCE, KS 66044 (913) 842-5774. You can get information on the international effort and be placed in contact with the nearest support group, or learn how start a new support group. Also, from them you can get a subscription to SPIRIT OF CRAZY HORSE for \$12/year. Here in the northwest, please contact THE NORTHWEST LEONARD PELTIER SUPPORT NETWORK, P.O. BOX 10262, OLYMPIA, WA 98502. The NW Network has an ongoing public campaign of rallies and marches. There has been 14 of these in the last two years in our region. These rallies have taken place in Portland, Olympia, Tacoma, Seattle, Everett, Mt. Vernon, Bellingham and at the US/Canadian border. We know what we ask of people is hard and there is a risk in speaking out against the forces of evil. This is a struggle, and that means it isn't going to be easy. For the sake of justice, freedom, for the well-being of the people, the children and Mother Earth, we have no other choice than to do whatever we can. Though we face a great reactionary tide, we will not give into it and the struggles continue for as long as it takes to gain FREEDOM FOR LEONARD PELTIER --NOW!!!

For the Well-being of all
Arthur J. Miller
Northwest Leonard Peltier Support Network



Clinton refuses to pardon an innocent man



Prison Guard Tower

Live from Ohio

Professionalism??

Last week the ACA held their convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Due to the massive outcry by CURE and other groups challenging their accreditation standards and misuse of applicability of them, they allowed Charles Sullivan of National CURE and Jana Schroeder of the Dayton AFSC to speak and sit through the rest of the meeting. Charlie and Jana spoke on the need of the ACA to follow their own standards by receiving input from the prisoners confined to the prisons that receive ACA accreditation and their families, among other things. A lot of the discussion by top ACA officials and prisoncrats was about the serious crisis due to the great influx of prisoners coming into the prison due to the public's war on crime and numerous legislation creating stiffer and longer actual incarceration sentences. For example, starting June 26, 1996, a repeat offender can get 10 years flat for an aggravated robbery, 6 more years consecutive -if the weapon was fully automatic or had a silencer and 10 more years for being a repeat offender -- that's 26 years flat -- no good time, only "Bad Time." If he/she is infraacted in prison, 3-6 months can be added to his/her maximum. This is the "Truth in Sentencing" law Ohio and other states passed in order to obtain federal funding to keep offenders in prison longer, as if we aren't already doing excessive sentences. What was clear to prisoncrats at the convention is that we are in a crisis that will cause further overcrowding leading to even worse conditions and possible uprisings due to increased tension with no educational programming or recreational outlets now that bills have passed outlawing weights, boxing and sporting programs. All of the officials at this conference see the crisis clearly, but do they point this out to the public, the politicians or the media who manipulate the public? No, they don't. Job Security!! Some brave souls in "corrections" have argued that taking away the weight program takes away a useful incentive they have in controlling prisoners and a tool that helps prisoners release their tensions in a positive form, rather than assaulting their captors, but their voices have been ignored.

The Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (DORC) is president-elect of the ACA Executive Board, as well as Director. The image portrayed by his office is of "professionalism." That DORC and it's employees are "professionals." Let me tell you about the "professionals" at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCF) located in Lucasville, Ohio.

On July 7, 1995 I began a death fast. My goal, a transfer out of SOCF and out of state due to the hatred and retaliation by prisoncrats I've won litigation against and their friends who attempt to use others to do their dirty work. I'm no stranger to fasts, I've been on a few, one to 50 days, another lasting 44 days. I drink plenty of water and being I'm always overweight to start, can last longer than the average prisoner. Most of all, I'm determined, hardheaded and committed. On the 36th day of this death fast, I'm starting to experience heartflutters, and dizziness when I stand. Those who have been there know the feeling. So, I ask the porter to have the guard call the nurse to check me. See, even though I'm on the 36th day of a fast, I'm still in my control unit cell because SOCF prisoncrats and nursing staff are such "professionals," they don't feel we deserve hospitalization for self-induced action -- in fact, I've heard and seen guards and supervisors coming to the cellblock door, asking, "Is he dead yet? Can we take his name off the count and off his lawsuits?" with obvious glee in their voices.

So, a nurse comes, accompanied by a newer guard with a new guard's cocky attitude who stands and glares at me, while the nurse tries to figure out how to wrap the blood pressure band around my forearm through the bars (they didn't want to afford me the luxury of coming out of my cell and going to the infirmary to check me -- they felt that would be "giving him a break" by allowing me a few minutes out of the cage I'm confined to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year) dropping the thermometer from the BP unit 3 times, mercury going spastic. After announcing that my blood pressure is just a little high, she says, "I hear you're on a hunger strike -- what for," voice dripping with sarcasm and ridicule, as the guard stands there glaring. Knowing I'd be fanning the flames by reacting, I reply, "It doesn't matter, you can't give me what I'm asking for" She says, "How long have you been on this hunger strike," to which I reply 36 days. This brings a loud exclamation from ol' hardnose, the new boy guard, with "If you hadn't eaten in 36 days you wouldn't be standing there," joined by Ms. Professional Sarcasm, "You haven't lost any weight!!" (I have lost 35 pounds so far) as they walk down the range repeating this to Sgt Turner, a well known, documented (in a human rights complaint to Amnesty International detailing human rights abuses at SOCF in violation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners) member of the goon squad, who has instilled these "professional" thoughts in these employees even before ever seeing my face. This was the crux of the "professional" treatment and medical care I receive on the 36th day of a fast.

I lay in my bunk, staying up late when it's quiet, to avoid the loud cacophony of shouts, arguments and steel doors opening during the daytime. During the nights supervisors enter and leave the block. A new addition to third shift is Capt. Schramm (Schrambo) former supervisor of the mail office and ever vigilant contrabander of all prison newsletters and "subversive" zines. He is also a losing defendant of a lawsuit filed after he confiscated and infraacted us for circulating the Human Rights Complaint for Amnesty International, mentioned above. Every night he comes in the block, he spends at least part of it vilifying this writer to every guard who will listen, saying "Lies, he writes lies (referring to the allegation that his reign of terror in the mailroom violated several constitutional rights of prisoners) and libelous ones at that." Or, "Is he dead yet (referring to my death fast) Can we take his name off that paperwork?" (pending lawsuit against him and others).

This is "Professionalism a la Lucasville style." "Professionalism" that our venerated director knows goes on here, yet fails to correct or address.

These are mild examples of Ohio's move toward "professionalism." This doesn't include the still occurring "attitude adjustments," total display of hatred toward prisoners, deliberate indifference to prisoners' serious medical needs, and the trend toward stiffer penalties and harsher conditions.

Greetings,

My name is Shaka Shakur, I am a socially conscious prisoner, presently held at the Indiana Reformatory. I am 28 years old and have served approximately 13 years of a 30 year sentence for the wrong crime and as a so called first time "offender".

I have written several poems, booklets and pamphlets addressing the social ills that plague the Afrikan community in particular and plagues amerika in general. I am attempting to give something back to the community that I once took from. The greatest gift that you can give or share with a person is knowledge, knowledge of self and surroundings. This is the greatest gift I can give my people.

I am trying to find a way to expose my writings and share them with my community. I would like to know if you would be willing to read some of my work and make a determination as to whether or not you would be willing to circulate, copy, distribute or sell my writings.

Most of my writings deal with the struggle of Afrikan people in this country. My focus is geared towards performing a critical analysis of the conditions that We collectively face. I attempt to perform a social autopsy of the genocidal conditions that Afrikan people seem to be plagued with. I also offer solutions.

I have been in prison since the age of sixteen. I come from the background of a former gang member, a former street combatant, trapped in the vicious cycle of what passes for life in the Afrikan community. I am not only a socially conscious prisoner, I am also a politically active individual inside prison. I have taken responsibility for organizing and implementing many progressive programs that are geared towards bringing Afrikan boys and Afrikan males to manhood. Myself and many others like me have taken responsibility, behind these cold death affirming gray walls, to save Our youth when they fall victim to amerika's (in)justice system. If We don't take responsibility for Ourselves, who will?

I would deeply appreciate any and all assistance that you would be willing to give. Enclosed are a sample of some of my writings. Thank you.

Sincerely In Struggle,

Shaka Shakur #28443
P.O. Box 30
Pendleton, IN 46064

Outside contact: BOAC
P.O. Box 93312
Milwaukee, WI 53203



The real criminals



MUSLIM REPRESSION AT LUCASVILLE

As most of our readers know, Lucasville was the site of the Easter 1993 rebellion sparked by forced TB tests on Muslims who rejected same as violations of their religious tenets.

Since the surrender 11 days later, the State has managed to successfully prosecute many prisoners for kidnap, felonious assault, conspiracy to murder, and murder, mainly by using inmate collaborators as star witnesses. Those prisoners involved in and/or convicted of acts during the uprising have been subjected to severe retaliation. A lot of this retaliation is directed toward the Muslims, since the State believes them to be the main initiators of the uprising.

On September 1, 1995, we watched as the Disturbance Control Team (a.k.a. "Ninja Turtles"), 8 or 9 deep, dressed in black and wearing body armor and masks, entered K4 cellblock at Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCE), Lucasville (Ohio), and ganged up in front of three cells, entering each individually, and beating, stomping, kicking, choking and then carrying out the occupants.

As we watched, one of the prisoners, a Muslim named Rakin, was marched into K3, hands cuffed behind his back, legs shackled, with the Ninja Turtles holding him on all sides until they carried/ threw him into cell 58. Rakin had cuts on his arms and neck and bruises all over his body from the beating. Brother Rakin related how he was first told he had to move from K4 to K3. When Rakin tried to explain that he had separations on prisoners as well as guards there, the DC Team ran in on him, screaming that he was a "Muslim sonuvabitch" and this was payback for "Bobbie" (Robert "Bobbie" Vallandingham was the guard hostage killed during the uprising). While a DC team member was supposed to be videotaping the incident, it's alleged that he did not videotape this part.

This is just one of numerous incidents of blatant retaliation at Lucasville since the uprising. Most of the other convicted prisoners (such as Rakin) are being held in prisons other than SOCF to avoid these very acts of retaliation. All the informants who turned State's witness against the Brothers have been sent out of state to serve their sentences, or freed. Ohio has started building a Super Max in Youngstown to hold some of the convicted rioters, but it will be three years before this is built if it is even completed.

All other states who have had major uprisings have always utilized the Interstate Compact to transfer those prisoners involved in them to other states--to avoid the very retaliation described above. But Ohio refuses to do so--except for snitches. So much for the "professionalism" that Ohio Prisoncrats profess to subscribe to.

As long as prisoners who participated in the uprising are housed at Lucasville, there will be many more acts of retaliation towards them. Anger runs too deep among the guards and supervisors not to retaliate. When a guard is murdered and others are injured, there will always be "paybacks," even from one generation to the next. This is "Appalachia," where a long history of vengeance is customary. In a more enlightened and civilized country, common sense and decency would mandate transfers of those involved in or convicted of acts committed during the uprising.

"Remember Attica, Remember Sante Fe, but most of all, Remember Lucasville!"

by A Field Marshall
(Sep. 3, 1995)

Typist's additional comment: A group of Brothers from Lucasville has been held at Lebanon (OH) Correctional Institution in isolation for some time. A reliable source there reports that any other prisoners who attempt to contact them or pass along coffee, cigarettes, writing materials, etc. to them are themselves subject to isolation if caught. K.T

MUMIA'S LYNCHING WON'T BE THE FIRST

The planned murder of our brother Mumia (delayed by the courageous activism of thousands of people who hit the street in protest!) is just one in a long line of political killings by the US Establishment.

The ruling class tolerates very little dissidence where redistribution of the wealth and mobilization occurs, case in point being the violence, frame-up and murder directed against the Industrial Workers Of the World (IWW-Wobblies) at the turn of the century.

In the same way, there were massive deportations, witch-hunts and illegal search-and-seizure operations when the Establishment felt threatened by the socialist movement in the 1920's and again in the McCarthy era.

More dramatically, Martin Luther King was gunned down for mobilizing people to challenge the racist oppression of Black workers. MLK was taking Blacks into a politically more powerful position and although his methods were peaceful, a major challenge from the masses in any form will be met with state brutality and his again met by gunfire. Malcom X took the process of resistance one step further--he called upon the black masses to arm themselves against this brutality and he too was dealt with by a bullet through his head.

Inspired by Malcolm's teachings, the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense of which brother Mumia was a member, organized thousands of ordinary african- american people to resist racism and police brutality and saw the need for a basic revolutionary transformation of society. The Panthers were subject to one of the biggest campaigns of harrasment, intimidation, infiltration, mass arrests and assasinations in U.S. history.

The violence with which they treated all of these movements demonstrates that our rulers knew they had something to fear from the critiques of racism, capitalism and oppression. They knew that with the right leadership and political education, the working masses could be organized to deal their system a death blow.

--Ricky Ricardo



Muslim Repression at Lucasville

Cont'd from page 13

After the Easter Uprising here I called upon the courts, legislators and progressives to bring about positive change in the wake of actions brought about by desperate men trying to beat back the right of oppression. In turn, the high court further limited prisoners' due process rights; Congress and State legislators enacted legislation to further oppress prisoners, and the DORC put on a false mask called "Professionalism." If this is professionalism, and further erosion of rights is the answer, how do you think those confined to these Orwellian cages will respond to that stimuli? Think about it. Remember Attica, Remember Sante Fe, but most of all, Remember Lucasville!!

John W. Perotti

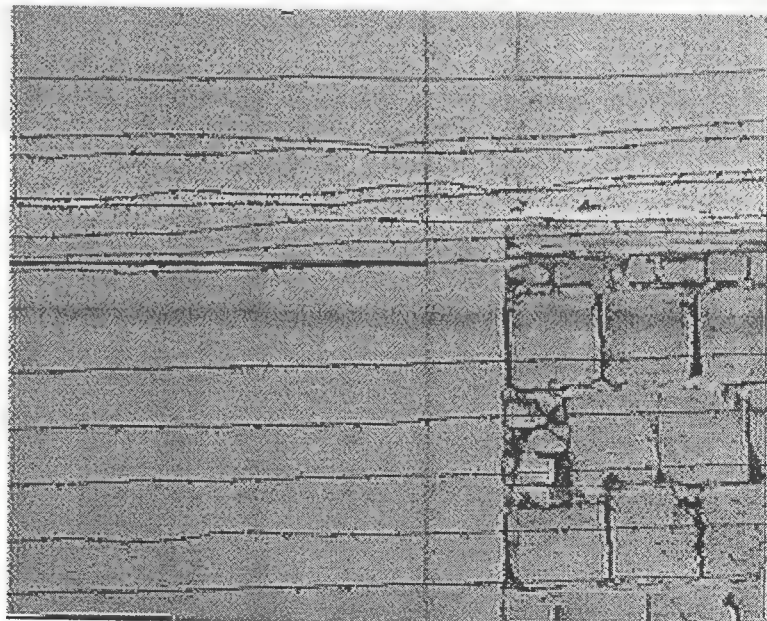
Note: John Perotti is still on his Death Fast and will remain on it until he's transferred out of SOCF. Calls asking about his condition and asking he be transferred should be made to:

Director Reginald Wilkinson
DORC
1050 Freeway Dr. N.
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: (614) 752-1164
Fax: (614) 752-1171

State Rep. Rhine McLin
1130 Germantown St.
Dayton, OH 45408
phone: (513) 466-6297
fax: (513) 466-4120

Congressman Louis Stokes
3811 Chelton Rd.
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

phone: (216) 522-4900



LIFE TERM ANARCHIST PRISONER NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Even though I actively aid other prisoners with their legal problems, my own cases are far different as the vindictive prosecution team was careful to follow procedures to try to ensure that I would die of old age in prison, condemned to prison designed to destroy me mentally or wreck my health completely, or with hope during my prison terms I would be murdered because of my open anarchist politics, my chosen politics clearly abrasive to prisoncratic authority over working class prisoners.

In 1979, I was arrested in Marietta, Georgia, on a Chattanooga, Tennessee, charge of First Degree Murder in the shooting death of a convicted murderer, a man convicted of beating to death a defenseless woman while she begged him to spare her life.

This animal's murder victim was the mother of my oldest son and her convicted killer had been freed pending appeal of a life term sentence of imprisonment. I was later charged with the armed robbery of a gem store in the Chattanooga area.

I was convicted of all these charges even though the prosecution's main witness at the murder trial, the only witness to identify me as the man who shot the convicted murderer, admitted he was guilty of committing perjury at a previous hearing and at the robbery trial one of the actual confessed robbers came into court to testify that I was not with him when he committed the gem store robbery. I did not recognize the court as a legitimate tribunal so I refused to testify at both trials. I was sentenced to terms amounting to life plus fifty years on these convictions. Later in 1986 I tried an armed escape from a rural Tennessee prison, and received thirty-two additional years in a 1989 trial.

LORENZO L. STONE-BEY AN UNNOTICED POLITICAL PRISONER

America has many political prisoners who have been held for many years. Some have been mentioned often in the media. Yet, others have been ignored for one reason or the other. One such prisoner is Lorenzo Stone-Bey.

Lorenzo Stone-Bey has been serving time now for about 20 years. The only thing he did was defend the community he belonged to from the police brutality that was taking place at that time. Coming from the state of Indiana, Lorenzo Stone-Bey was able to unite feuding neighborhoods. After bringing the community together, Lorenzo Stone Bey was able to deal with police brutality.

In February 1976, Lorenzo was imprisoned in Gary, Indiana. This was done as a cover up of the corruptions taking place in the Police Department. At the court trial itself, two witnesses openly told the court that another individual was responsible for a murder that day. Even though the witnesses spoke of Lorenzo's innocence, the prosecution still used them against Lorenzo Bey.

Elliot James, one of the key witnesses at the trial, told the court that the Police Department of Indiana and Lake County's prosecution made up accusations to imprison Lorenzo Bey.

Harold Thompson cont'd

Marilyn Pippin, my significant other half and trustworthy friend, recently decided to attempt to hire an attorney to litigate my wrongful conviction. I've suggested to her I might request my fellow anarchists to issue data updates concerning me, these cases, my life plus sentences, maybe distribute flyers/leaflets, requesting donations toward the necessary amount of funds required to hire a competent lawyer to fight to free me. I am requesting such help now. It is a clear fact, there is only so much a prisoner can do within prison confines with legal work product it takes days, weeks, or months to accomplish, a professional attorney can achieve within a mere matter of minutes or hours due to his/her accessibility to the judicial system, legal research materials readily at hand, plus a legal staff to run errands for them. I have been imprisoned since 1979, 16 years in prison in ill health due to a past medical history of a brain aneurysm operation, 52 years old, which is a load heavy enough to break the back of most persons. I do know it is impacting on me adversely now, particularly as pertains to my general health situation as an epileptic and my ever worsening nerves from the chaos of prison life.

Please consider extending to me your helping hand of solidarity with a request for donations where you reside? If you do not have the time for such a project, I understand. Maybe you could get out the word to various anarchist/revolutionary organizations, collectives, etc., in my behalf? Rather than having support letters or donations sent to Brooklyn ABC care of Dan Sabatar, it would save time and and unnecessary duplication of mailing to have support letters sent to me directly at my prison address below with any donations of funds for my legal defense sent directly to the following address:

Harold H. Thompson
Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 2213, Cleveland,
Tennessee 37320-2213, U.S.A. Support letters
mailed to me: Harold H. Thompson, #93992,
W.T.H.S.F., Unit 5-C-211, Route 2, Box 1050,
Henning, Tennessee 38041-1050, U.S.A..

Ms. Pippin has decided to list my name on her postal box for receipt of defense funds.

She has further indicated her willingness to maintain proper care of my legal defense funds and to perform all necessary tasks associated with locating/hiring a competently performing attorney to work to free me from chains, free me from these unjust convictions that rightfully should never have taken place in the first place as they are based on sensationalist publicity-seeking by prosecutors for political reasons, not justice. 16 years inside prison is more than mere punishment.

Lorenzo cont'd

Instead of releasing the man, the court officially denied post-conviction relief on June 20, 1989. However, in the same facts finding laws it stated with regards to the arrest: "it would appear that arguably the arrest was without probable cause."

The Attorney General, the arresting officer, and the trial judge all admitted to the gross violations of justice upon Lorenzo Stone-Bey. The Attorney General remarked: "The state does not challenge the record or the post-conviction court conclusion that Stone's arrest was without probable cause. The arresting officer essentially admitted the same."

These are very nice words but they mean nothing if the man is still behind bars! Empty words, empty promises by a system of justice that is bankrupt. The State of Indiana just will not admit that it is wrong. It will rather rob a man of much of his life. And then America complains of a crime problem. A crime problem is what it will have if it imprisons the best and brightest among the people.

As if this wasn't enough, the Indiana Supreme Court denied his appeal on March 6, 1992. This was followed by being held in a lineup and not being allowed to speak to his family. The Next Parole hearing is scheduled for December 1995. Repent to Allah, Indiana Police Department! Repent and release an innocent man of Allah. We can take our pain, work with it, recycle it and transform it so that it becomes a source of power and solidarity. In December 1995, Lorenzo L. Stone-Bey will have served twenty (20) years on a life sentence and will be eligible to be released on parole by the Indiana Parole Board. We are asking for statements of support and letters of recommendation to be sent to:

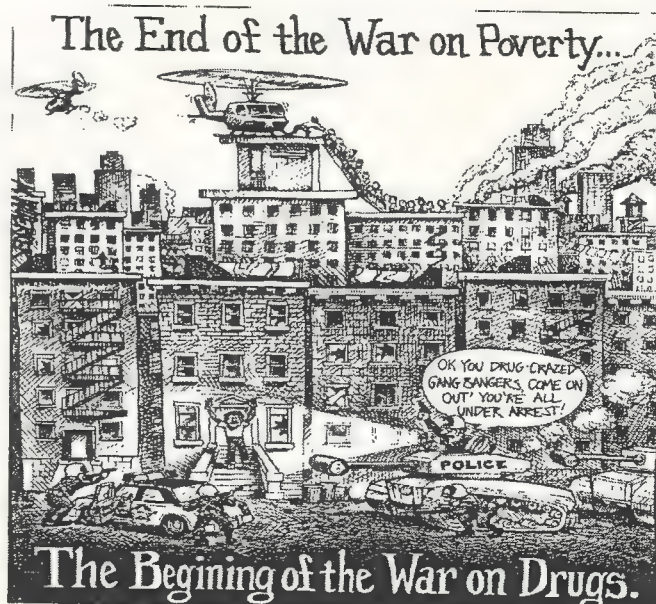
Indiana Parole Board
E321 Indiana Government Center South
302 West Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

A copy of all letters can be sent directly to Lorenzo L. Stone-Bey. Lorenzo has obtained his GED, Paralegal Diploma, Auto Body Certificate, Humanitarian Award, Business Degree and various other certificates and awards.

He is a first time offender and has been imprisoned since he was seventeen. He has spoken out for the rights of prisoners and oppressed peoples. He has been a strong and positive voice against youth violence and human rights violations. We need your statements and letters of recommendation to be sent to the Indiana Parole Board in support of the release of Loreozo L. Stone-Bey and this action by you, will assure that you do care. Copies of all letters can be sent to:

Lorenzo Stone-Bey #10006
P.O. Box 41
Indiana State Prison
Michigan City, IN 46360
Legal defense:
Mr. John Pinnow
Greenwood Professional Park
622 N. Madison
Greenwood, IN 46142
312-881-1659

DO NOT BE AFRAID TO SAY "I CARE"



National Boycott Campaign in support of Political Prisoners inThe United States

There have been several campaigns and initiatives that have sought to bring pressure on the government to either overturn a conviction for a new trial or to prevent an execution. No such campaign or initiative has captured the attention as has Mumia's case. While such efforts have been mounted to save Mumia and overturn his conviction, it is extremely important that in championing his cause we don't lose sight that the U.S. government does not recognize the existence of political prisoners, the exception being Puerto Rican Nationalists.

While we diligently concentrate our efforts to save the life of Mumia, we hope the effort is successful on August 17, 1995. Failure is unacceptable, yet we must be in a position to further galvanize and motivate people to continue the struggle after the crisis of August 17, 1995. In this regard, with the support in his eloquent voice of the oppressed we should launch a national boycott campaign against selective corporations that the poor and oppressed patronize on a regular basis.

In the past, the boycott as a political campaign tactic was effective to raise the moral and social consciousness of this country. Such a tactic could be just as effective on the U.S. and the demand for amnesty.

Not only was the Montgomery Bus Boycott successful, but it set the stage for Civil Rights Movement. Since then, the threat of a boycott has been effectively used by civil rights activists to gain concessions, reforms, and changes in corporate America.

If progressive forces who have been brought together in support of Mumia, were to on August 17, 1995, launch a national boycott campaign against selective corporate entities in support of the Amnesty of Political Prisoners, such an initiative would immediately create a national debate on the existence of political prisoners in the United States.

For instance, the selected corporate entities would have to make the inquiry as to why they have been targeted. They will probably attempt to gain the support of civil rightists and other professionals to counter the political significance of the boycott. This, of course, would put those persons in disfavor to our movement and supporters, possibly further broadening the debate. This will ultimately become a political embarrassment to the U.S international human rights policies. The Justice & State Department will launch attacks against the boycott, again broadening the controversy and building support as to the reality of political prisoners in the United States. Eventually, the Justice & State Department will have to review cases for the purpose of considering amnesty. Just the announcement of the National Boycott for the Amnesty of Political prisoners in the U.S., if done right would initiate the national debate, since the targeted corporations will immediately seek to counter the potential of their corporate name being tarnished. On terms of revenue for the selective targets, "image" is an extremely important aspect of business success.



Salvadorans show the proper technique for boycotting Marlboro

Suggested Targets

McDonald's Restaurants: This is a highly recognized and catered business in the poor and oppressed community. The corporation has international appeal and significant political clout.

Coca Cola Company: Similar to McDonald's, it has international appeal and political clout, and its products are favored in the poor and oppressed communities

Nike Sneaker Corporations: The same as the two above. All three of these corporate entities will immediately respond to the possibility of a long term boycott subject to political goals of national and international interest. Method to Implement Boycott

On August 17, 1995, announce via press conference in Philadelphia, either at the Court House or Prison where Mumia is held, the launching of the National Boycott for Amnesty of U.S. Political Prisoners. In the Press release explain why the selected corporations were targeted, and the campaign will expand to other corporations as the boycott grows, both nationally and internationally.

The boycott will be asking the selective corporate entities to support the campaign by doing the following:

1. Place a national advertisement of the names of political prisoners in the U.S. whose imprisonment is as a result of Cointelpro or similar illegal government activities, demanding these cases be reviewed for Amnesty considerations.

2. They are to further distribute a condensed version of the advertisement to/with their product for one month's distribution.

3. The same advertisement is to be announced over the radio and TV

4. They are to communicate their concerns for Amnesty to the Justice & State Department calling for considerations of Amnesty as a human rights policy for the United States.

A letter outlining these four points should be sent or delivered to the CEO of each selected corporations, requesting they respond immediately to avert the boycott

The boycott could begin in selective cities across the country where people could, for instance, distribute flyers in front of a McDonald's or shoe store/athletic store, or grocery store selling either of these products. Like the Caesar Chavez grape boycott, this initiative could eventually grow to actually impact on these corporate groups. Nonetheless, the boycott will serve to provide people across the country a way they can support political prisoners with a minimum of sacrifice to themselves by not purchasing the selected products. This is definitely something college and high school students could do once the word is sent out through the various alternative press and the many speaking engagements across the country in behalf of Mumia and other political prisoners. In this way, the traveling Art Show and other types of events, begin to create a serious movement and the socio-psychological determination that people are not powerless to force changes in this country in support of pp/pow's.

Conclusion

This proposal seeks to build and sustain the momentum of political action that has been galvanized in support of Mumia beyond August 17, 1995. I'm confident that with Mumia's voice behind the boycott, it will strengthen the initiative and raise this entire issue into the national political debate.

Of course, what is here proposed is not all inclusive or exclusive, but rather, hopes to become an impetus to shore up the support base already established, and move it into a campaign of broader political significance is to heighten resistance, and bring clarity to the political contradiction that exists between the politically oppressed and the oppressors.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jalil Abdul Muntaqim

Save Mumia
Amnesty For Political Prisoners of War



Boycott McDonalds

Letter

I recently had a trusted comrade and friend request that I send him my thoughts on the importance of prisoner support work by the various movements, in particular the anarchist movement both nationally and internationally. I thought I would share just a few of my thoughts on this topic of import with you now through my brother.

First, it is important to point out none of us is immune from arrest and prosecution for any number of alleged crimes once we have placed ourselves into the eye of the storm of struggle against the monsters of the earth who believe their station in life gives them the legitimate power to enslave us in however form they so choose, to use us up, throw us away and profit by the blood we shed and the sweat of our bodies in their wage slave shops, factories and mills of capitalism. Once we step out in any form of protest then the power of the state falls upon us with unrelenting force. We are subject to arrest and imprisonment at any time, most of us, simply because we choose to be who we are, live the lives we choose in spite of the plans others make for us, and dare to be different because our eyes are open to the realities of our future wearing the yoke of capitalism around our necks like beasts of burden, not equal human beings, unless we throw the weight on our back off to stand in the sun in our rightful place. Look at the person beside you, across the way from you, and then fully realize that individual is in danger of arrest and so are you because you dare to be different than those who seek to control us desire you to be, especially if your life is governed by the tenets of anarchism or you believe, and have undertaken, direct action against your oppressors.

The 'system' portrays those of us on the inside of gulag walls, within the ever increasing number of jails and prisons being constructed, as being the equivalent of the proverbial biblical "unclean", people to be feared, less than humans, and not to be bothered with or worth any degree of outside support. It amazes me how many intelligent people within the many struggles have bought into the disinformation put out by the system to varying degrees. The majority of the unfortunate residents of the gulags are for the most part just like other people who are free, only through a twist of their destiny they were arrested, stood at trial, and imprisoned. The system provides the sensationalistic image of those inside gulag walls being a bad lot best steered clear of because the system fears association of those inside and outside. It fears the might of numbers which reside inside who have nothing to lose and everything to gain by the destruction of the system. Inside is an army waiting to happen which needs education, direction, and support. The system desires nothing more than to maintain a wall of silence around the gulags and isolate prisoners to break their minds and spirits. I have seen bodies broken and minds fragmented forever by the brutal hands of the keepers or the clever use of their weaksuck inmate lackies. I have seen many men reach out to the outside struggles with heartfelt letters begging for information about the various movements, education about them, seeking compassion and comradeship.

I am not stating the gulags do not hold a fair share of social predators and I am speaking of social prisoners who have become politicized within gulag walls either through their own learning efforts or the system itself has reacted against their alleged crime(s) in such a way as to politicize them, the forgotten incarcerated members of the various outside struggles, and those persecuted by the system because they embrace politics which is abrasive to the system by its very nature, such as the politics of anarchism I embrace.

I am merely pointing out the obvious pitfall of not supporting those seeking the tools to become politicized. I am often blunt, or frank, to the point of pain so I do apologise if my words have made anybody uncomfortable but one sobering thought really needs to bring a wakeup call type of feeling of discomfort with it. That thought is I am here today sitting in a steel and concrete tomblike cage writing these words to you... but you might actually be behind gulag walls within the near, or even far, future writing comparable thoughts to the outside if they come for you in the morning...

Sadder still than those social prisoners seeking, starving for, education and direction ignored by the various groups, collectives and revolutionary movements are those souls captured during direct, or even indirect, actions only to discover once in captivity they appear to have somehow been deemed not worthy of the support of their comrades and hence soon forgotten...

One conceptual truth screams out in my heart to be voiced so I will state it now. Any political movement, or people's struggle, which fails to provide support to fallen comrades is doomed to certain failure as certain as we all are that daylight chases dark of night away!

Prisoner support should be considered of very top priority importance within all political movements, and with all activists, as we, you or I, never know when gulag gates will slam behind us or when those gates to the outside will open again to allow our passage through them once the system has us in its iron grasp...

I have endured many hard years, over a decade and a half, within the gulags of this state, existing within the festered, swollen belly of the beast of capitalism. I spent the first decade banging my head and heart against a wall of silence, attempting to reach out to ears that appeared to be deaf and eyes which appeared to be blind to my existence in hell. I never gave up and have earned the right to point these issues out now. I have earned the right to speak out truth with the shedding of my blood, the pain of this, in past beaten, tired body and my spirit of anarchism which has never been broken by my keepers and never will be!

I will close now with these final words. Take care of each other, keep each other safe in the eye of the storms which you face, and never forget those in captivity because tomorrow's captive of the monsters of the earth might well be you. Our common enemies are the same from country to country with only faces and names being different as they represent the same ideology of rape of the earth and oppression of the populous for profit as throw-away humanity.

Stay strong and know in your hearts I am with you in revolutionary spirit in every direct action you engage in against those who oppress us! We only want the earth! They will never get us all!

18 April 1985.

Harold H. Thompson, #93992

Anarchist Prisoner

Address:

Harold H. Thompson, 93992

W.T.H.S.F., Unit 5-C-211

Route 2, Box 1050

Henning, Tennessee,

38041-1050, U.S.A.



Who are the real criminals?

Cutting the Claws of Imperialism

The Cold War of the 90's

By: A. Jalil Bottom

On May 12th, 1994, the Wall Street Journal featured an article entitled: Making Crime Pay - Triangle of Interests Created Infrastructure To Fight Lawlessness - Cities See Jobs; Politicians Sense a Popular Issue and Businesses Cash In - The Cold War of the 90s.

Knowing how government employs the media to persuade the public to support political objectives in the behalf of military and business interests; the subtitle, The Cold War of the 90's, set an alarm off in my head. What in the past had been called the war against crime, has evolved into an official social and political policy of government; it has now become a viable military and business interest. The government is now renovating military bases into prisons, so that former military communities will continue to have an industry. Today's rural communities want a prison in their back yard. The article stated: "Americans' fear of crime is creating a new version of the old military-industrial complex, and infrastructure born amid political rhetoric and a shower of federal, state and local dollars. As they did in the Eisenhower era, politicians are trying to outdo each other in standing up to the common enemy; communities pin their economic hopes on jobs related to the buildup; and large and small businesses scramble for a slice of the bounty. These mutually reinforcing interests are forging a formidable new "iron triangle" similar to the triangle that arms makers, military services and lawmakers formed three decades ago."

What is truly ominous about this development is the fact they are talking about increasing the number of people being sent to prison. They are talking about how big business like Goldman Sachs & Co., Prudential Insurance Co. of America, Smith Barney Shearson, Inc., and Merrill Lynch & Co. are among those competing to underwrite prison construction with private, tax-exempt bonds - where no voter approval is required. In essence, big business investing in the prison system.

This begs the question, where have big business, big investors ever put the welfare of people before their own profits? How do big investors plan to gain a return of their investment, and make a profit? What does this mean to the average worker, and what does this mean to those communities in which most prisoners, that being Africans and Hispanics, come from?

This country imprisons more of its citizens, about 1.4 million people, than any other industrialized nation. Although Euro-Americans comprise 69% of all those arrested, while Blacks comprise 29% of those arrested, institutional racism in the criminal justice system incarcerates Blacks in disproportionate numbers. It imprisons African men 4 times more than did apartheid South Africa, 9 times more than European-Americans. While Blacks comprise 48% of the U.S. prison population, they are only 12.5% of the entire population. Presently, the fastest growing ethnic group being imprisoned in this country are Hispanic. Although these statistics were gathered several years ago by the federal government, imagine how these numbers will increase in the years to come with this developing infrastructure reminiscent of the industrial-military complex.

The article purported that:

"Parts of the defense establishment are cashing in, too, scenting a logical new line of business to help them offset military cutbacks. Westinghouse Electric Corp., Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co., GDE Systems Inc. (a division of the old General Dynamics) and Alliant Techsystems Inc., for instance, are pushing crime-fighting equipment and have created special divisions to retool their defense technology for America's streets... Many lesser-known companies already are doing well fighting crime. Esmore Correctional Services Inc., the biggest U.S. maker of police electronics, recently was taken public by Janny Montgomery Scott."

If contemporary history is any indication, it is evident that the government and business "Cold War of the 90's" is directed at the African and Hispanic community. In their search for people to pillage and conquer for profits, the collusion of government, military, and business interest has turned inward, and now the enemy is us, it is the poor, it is the new immigrants of color, and it is the disenfranchised.



To gain support for this new conquest of manifest destiny, this opening of the new domestic frontier, the general public, i.e., European-Americans, must be made to support what ultimately is the resurrection of involuntary servitude and slavery in America. To ensure that this happens, the government's nefarious alliance with the mass media has created an air of hysteria about crime. It has done so although the Federal Bureau of Investigation recently reported that crime in America is decreasing - not increasing. The power of the media and government is extremely awesome, it is the power to define what we think about and how we think about it. It is the power that shapes our collective consciousness and attitudes, and in so doing, motivate people to respond to specific stimuli, and respond in a specific way. As stated in the article "...according to a new Wall Street Journal NBC News poll, more than 70% of those surveyed support longer prison terms for violent offenders... Meanwhile, a recent Justice Department study shows that 21% of all federal prisoners are guilty of low-level, nonviolent offenses, such as possession of small quantities of illegal drugs, but are serving lengthy sentences under mandatory minimums set by Congress."

By shaping the collective consciousness and attitudes, the politicians are then able to pass into law draconian sanctions. Sanctions that appease the will of the people demanding a safe society, and ultimately serves the interest of restructuring the industrial-military complex, by forging an infrastructure for the proliferation of prison building. Although it soothes and anesthetizes the collective consciousness towards the desired end of permitting hundreds of thousands, if not millions more people to be incarcerated at no moral or psychic detriment to those who constitute the majority of Americans, this buildup fails to inhibit or prevent criminal social behavior by the poor and disenfranchised. This is particularly significant when "[T]here's a food fight among communities that want these prisons," for politicians like New York Assemblyman Dan Feldman, chairman of the legislature's criminal-justice committee, prisons have become, he says "the juiciest pork in the barrel." Dr. Thomas, the academic, observed:

"With the population in private prisons growing at four times the rate of the general prison population, growth for the private prison industry is virtually guaranteed. "If you were in the hotel industry, you'd think you died and gone to heaven."

The "Triangle of Interests" has set the stage for the resurrection of slavery in America, since this peculiar institution was never abolished. It is held the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution abolished involuntary servitude and chattel slavery of Africans, although there exists an exception clause for those who have been duly convicted of a crime. The exception clause has been consistently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, holding that prisoners are no more than slaves of the State. Presumably, the U.S. will then be able to compete with China's prison made products on the international market, since Clinton recently maintained favorite nation trading status with China despite human rights violations.

Given this reality of the proliferation of prison building, the logical consequence of this developing infrastructure of big business investment, military security technology, and government sanctions, along with the mass media support suggest an increase in human toil. Hence, the reason for Pell grants being abolished, the removal of boxing and weight lifting from federal prisons, lowering the age to 13 for a person to be sentenced as an adult, the increase of the number of death penalty laws, and three strikes you're out.

As we enter a new millennium the criminalization of poverty in capitalist America points to the desensitization of a moral determination. It points to the entrenchment of the idea of putting profits before people, lending to an understanding that if you are a poor Euro-American, Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American or any combination of the same, prison could very well be part of your future.

About the writer: A Jalil Bottom is a political prisoner of war and former member of the Black Panther Party/Black Liberation Army. He has been in prison for nearly 24 years, and has earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Bachelor of Science in Psychology. He is presently being held at Attica Correctional Facility, P.O. Box 149(77A4283), Attica, New York 14011-0149.

Active Transformation #8
PO Box 6746
East Lansing, MI 48826

April/May '96

US Out of Bosnia!

To the Victor goes the spoils -- the former Yugoslavia at the mercy of big capital

All of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union has been turned into a bargain basement sale for the billionaires of the planet.

People may know of the civil war in the U.S. in the 1860's, a civil war that was fought for much the same reasons as the one in Yugoslavia today. The southern U.S. at the time had an economy based on slavery. The northern U.S. had one based on free-labor capitalism. The growing power of big money capital in the north, resulted in a large increase in its population and a large increase in its political clout. When the south was unable to increase its political power in congress by bringing western states into the union as slave states, it realized that the forces of capitalism and free-labor were going to be predominant in the country. The south seceded, saying that "states' rights" ("local autonomy" in today's jargon) were being squashed by the north. As we can see, "states' rights" was just a cover for maintaining a slave system. This is of course, exactly what is happening in Yugoslavia, with one exception. There is no north. That is to say, there is no large military force that stands for a more progressive social system in the area. The six republics and two autonomous provinces of the former Yugoslavia are taking part in a "communal slaughter" with no redeeming qualities to any side in the struggle.

A short history of former Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia as a country was created in 1918. World War I destroyed the Austro-Hungarian empire, and as a result Yugoslavia was made up of distinct pieces of that empire. The former Yugoslavia was made up of six republics, of which only Serbia existed as a independent state before 1918. Huge differences existed between the republics when they were combined into Yugoslavia. Serbians lived through 500 years of Turkish domination. During that time their language was made up of cyrillic script and their religious culture leaned toward the Eastern Orthodox Church. The other peoples that became part of the new Yugoslavia however, had adopted the Latin alphabet and leaned toward Catholicism. These other peoples are the Croats and the Slovenes. The Slovenes and the Croats supported the Germans and the Austrians in WWI; the Serbs supported the Allies. The 2,000,000 Albanians in the Kosova region of Serbia have a separate history as well. The Bosnians Muslims are generally looked down upon by the other ethnic groups. When WWII began, the republics of Slovenia and Croatia supported Germany -- Serbia was crushed by German tanks. Huge concentration camps were set up in Croatia where hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Jews and Gypsies perished. (9/1/91, New York Times) The Communist Partisans fought against the Nazis and were largely made up of Serbs. After WWII there were many Serbs crying for blood vengeance upon the Croats. The Communist Party acted quickly to prevent violence against the Croats and the Slovenes, who also largely had supported the Nazis.

Tito, a Croatian, was able to block nationalist tensions through the smart use of subsidies and appointing officials who hailed from all the regions of Yugoslavia. The communist policy of providing jobs for all and establishing a health care system designed to serve everyone helped the country maintain unity also. Unfortunately, during the 1950's the Communist Party in Yugoslavia became a bureaucratic regime, which expelled people from its ranks basically on a whim. The famous WWII communist fighter, Vladimir Dedijer, and author of Tito Speaks (1953) was expelled from the Communist Party and jailed for six months (his original jail sentence was much longer.) His crime was to side with someone who had criticized a "New Class" of party bureaucrats and for advocating the rule of law in socialism. (12/4/1990 New York Times) Over the decades, the Communist Party became not so much a party of Nazi fighters, but of full-time professional bureaucrats trained not in serving the people but in power politics. After Tito died in 1980, many of these bureaucrats began to think seriously about the possibilities of riding a tidal wave of nationalism into the Sun\$et. Movers and shakers in positions of power in all of these republics began to dream of the day when they too could participate independently in the global supermarket. They enviously gaped at the slick U.S. and German CEO's with their expensive silk suits and their third world labor peons...

The recent right wing surge, the surge that would destroy what was good in Yugoslavia and keep all that was bad, began around 1986. This really shows how interconnected the world is. In the 60's the political movements that shook the world were primarily progressive, and ranged from Vietnam to the U.S. to Czechoslovakia. In the 80's we see the strengthening of nationalism, religion and capitalism with just a few exceptions. The 80's witnessed the end of the Soviet economic support for Cuba and Eastern European countries. The USSR raised oil prices, as well as prices for other important industrial supplies which worked to the advantage of Greater Russia and aggravated nationalist tensions both in outlying areas of the Soviet Union and in other countries.



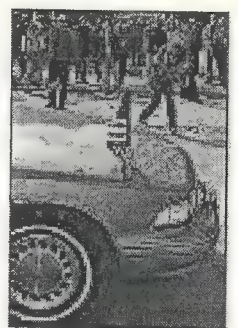
Women in Belgrade, Serbia march in protest of nationalism



US military in the former Yugoslavia



Gypsy woman with baby begging for money on the streets of Serejevo



Serbs throwing stones at representative of US Imperialism Madeleine Albright's car



Growing low wage workers in the former Yugoslavia for the big industrial powers



Architects of the war: Tudjman and Izetbegovic

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US Out of Bosnia!

cont'd from page 19

There was a controversial memo circulated in the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1986 saying basically that Serbia had been "swindled" in the larger Yugoslav Republic and that a greater Serbia was the solution. (9/1/91, New York Times) This memo was repudiated by the Yugoslav Communist Party. Later in 1987, Milosevic ventured into the Kosovo region of Serbia and rekindled nationalist emotions against that autonomous province by putting down the Albanians, a 90% majority in that particular region of Serbia. The way that Milosevic did this is almost ludicrous. He was speaking in Kosovo to a large crowd of Serbs. But when there were no more seats in the building; the Serbs outside started pushing to get in. Since the area was mostly Albanian, the police were Albanian. The police started beating the Serbs outside. Milosevic rose to their defense; he shouted, "No one has the right to beat the people!" (9/1/91, New York Times) Strange that this bureaucrat would show enough understanding to use police brutality as a propaganda tool to crush Albanian independence. Since then, Yugoslavia has been a cauldron of nationalist sentiments. That was 1987. By 1990, Yugoslavia had broken into fragments, with each republic holding their own elections.

In 1990, there was a short period of time where events in Yugoslavia could have gone differently. These events happened in Serbia. Organizations in Belgrade called for a protest of Milosevic's total control of Serbian television. Tens of thousands of people gathered in downtown Belgrade. Police shot water cannon and hit people with batons, shots were fired, one cop died, one student died and a full-scale riot went through Belgrade. Later that night, tanks rumbled through the downtown. In the next couple of weeks, the crowds controlled the streets. However, it seems that the people who took over the streets could only put forward some vague commitment to democracy. Apparently, they did not take a stand against the selling off of industry to the western corporations, something the average Serb worker was deadly afraid of. A few of the protesters were also nationalists, albeit more democratic ones. After a few weeks, the crowds dwindled and the regime again took over.

The Serbian regime immediately played the nationalism card to attempt to regain popular support. They played up how the Serbs in Croatia (600,000 Serbs) were being menaced by the Croatian majority there. Strangely enough, these charges were basically true. Croatia had been making Serbs living within Croatia "sign loyalty oaths, legally redefined Serbs in Croatia as an ethnic minority, distributed assault rifles to some civilians and renamed a square in Zagreb that had been dedicated to the victims of fascism" (9/1/96, New York Times). That would be roughly the same as the Aryan Nation renaming the Holocaust Museum.

Both Croatia and Slovenia had something to gain by leaving. They were both more industrialized than the rest of Yugoslavia, much of which is still extremely rural and less developed. In the typical Eastern European country before the collapse of the Stalinist regimes, much of the wealth produced by more industrialized provinces often went to support more agricultural provinces. Central planning of the economy usually leveled out differences in wealth of various areas. Many in Slovenia and Croatia wished a lifestyle more befitting a modern industrialized country, unfettered by the Serbian dominated federal army which for the time being, forced the Croats and the Slovenes to pay into the central Yugoslav treasury. Many felt that they would do well in the open international market. There was quite a bit of industry to sell to Western banks in return for payola. There was also the dream that their products would sell well on the international market.

Here is an example of one of the business deals that went on in the late 1980's - early 1990's:

Yugoslavia's largest pharmaceutical company has been swallowed up. The company had projected sales of 230 million and has 5,800 workers. SPI, a California pharmaceuticals company, bought the publicly-owned company. SPI had projected sales of only 130 million. Specifically, SPI had run into serious problems with debt, and was looking for a fresh source of capital and exploitable workers. Galenika Pharmaceuticals, the publicly-owned Yugoslavian drug company was the answer. SPI, in the newly merged company, owns 75% of the assets! One suspects that the Yugoslavian government was paid off for this deal. Sounds like a City of Lansing operation. Naturally, on the day that the merger took place, the stock of SPI rose almost 20%. (NYT, 11/23/96)



The Case of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Many people in Lansing were caught by surprise at the sight of protests of some local Muslims in support of Bosnian Muslims. In fact, reading the New York Times articles in the 1990 period, it appears that most of their journalists were either unaware of or deliberately left out the fact that there was a Muslim population in Yugoslavia at all. The New York Times is not alone in its racism. In 1991, President Alija Izetbegovic asked NATO to station troops along the Bosnian borders with Croatia and Serbia. (Dec. 23, 1991, NYT) Both Serbia and Croatia wanted a chunk out of Bosnia at the least and they were both hoping to get the whole thing. The Bosnian government was hoping, like Croatia and Slovenia, to leave the Yugoslav republic and strike out on its own, away from the dictates of the Serbian-dominated federal army. The Muslims were a minority inside Bosnia; they were just a larger minority than the Serbs and the Croats. The largely Muslim government leadership also had plans for all the money they were going to make when they sold all the mineral rights in the country to Sunoco and turned over the telephone exchange to General Electric. In no way were they going to let the Croats or the Serbs cut in on their community chest. Peace treaties signed previously with Serbia granting the Serbs some land already owned by their people, was thrown out the window. (Workers World, Dec. 7th, 1995) The German government was the culprit here, guaranteeing the Bosnians that they would "recognize" them as an independent country. In other words, this was a hint that the Bosnians would be eligible for loans and other military help given to sovereign nations. Naturally, Izetbegovic of Bosnia gave the treaty the heave-ho. This caused a brutal civil slaughter to go on for three more years.

What happened in Bosnia was actually a replay of the exact same tactic that Germany used to break up Yugoslavia in the first place. Germany decided to recognize two Yugoslav republics, Slovenia and Croatia, while peace talks were in progress at the Hague. (Dec. 15, 1991, New York Times). This was an invitation to those countries to secede, since they knew recognition as a nation made them eligible for loans, guns and so on.

In the end, there was the Dayton peace accord, signed just this past November. Croatia was the big winner. They got quite a bit of Bosnia, as well as the area of Croatia that they "cleansed" of Serbs (200,000 of them) in the fall. (Workers Vanguard, 12/1/95) The Muslims were actually kind of screwed, as they ended up with a very small and impoverished state indeed. The Serbs did badly as well, coming out of it with only a small chunk of Bosnia, less than the local Bosnian Serbs had actually controlled in the first place.

You too can own a piece of the former Yugoslavia!

The NATO heavyweights have made possible the bargain basement sale of former Yugoslavia, former Yugoslavians, trinkets, libraries, family jewels, utilities, just about anything you'd like to buy!

60,000 US/NATO troops are currently in position or getting in position in Yugoslavia. They are not just there to impose the land agreement. They are primarily there to ensure that the land and the people become permanently embedded to the international market and its banks. U.S. corporations are very interested in exploiting the cheap, highly skilled labor force there, and in acquiring assets such as utilities and mineral rights. But with a war going on, the place was not insurable. Now, with 60,000 troops enforcing a peace without dignity it is now safe to invest there again, and without the bothersome intervention of the former Yugoslav state apparatus to worry about.

So spend freely!

The Big Losers: Women and Albanians

Belgrade, Serbia -- Human rights campaigner and feminist Sonja Licht; "I often call the emerging democracies male democracies." (Nov. 25th, 1990, NYT). How true.

In the former Eastern Europe, there were very different policies toward women and minorities. An example is Hungary where "each woman by law gets a 24 week maternity leave at full pay, followed by a 3-year leave at partial salary, with a promise that her job will be there when she returns to work." (Nov. 25, 1990, NYT) There were in Hungary also "liberal policies for parents with sick children -- 84 paid sick days a year for children under 3, 42 days for children between 3 and 6, with these allowances doubled for single parents." (Ibid)

"In Yugoslavia, an abortion battle is shaping up in the Croatian republic, where the Catholic Church is a political force, while in Serbia, where nationalism has taken a particularly virulent form, married couples with no children are being threatened with a punitive tax." (Ibid) Women are being quickly shunted out of office. During the communist regimes many women were in high positions in government: this fact has led to a sexist backlash which has resulted in many women being voted down. Make no mistake, there was a tremendous amount of sexism in Eastern Europe before the Stalinist leaderships were overturned. The sexist attitudes that existed during those regimes have emerged triumphant in those societies -- hand in hand with the intervention of the western market economies.

The Albanians who were the unfortunate early targets of the Serb leadership's nationalist binge are suffering under a police state. The only hope for them at this point is for internal revolution in Serbia to link up with-- not such a far off hope. Perhaps a good model for them would be the Serbs of the 1940's -- a people that suffered under the Nazis, only to eventually emerge victorious and establish a more egalitarian society.

In summary, the people with power now in Yugoslavia are former bureaucrats with cash or out-and-out crooks. There is a quote of a Xerox salesman that puts it all in perspective: "The problem, he said, is that the only people with the necessary capital are those who were corrupt Communist officials or those involved in money-changing or other black-market activities. 'Nobody but the big crooks have the money', Mr. Leimgruber said." (NYT, 12/27/96). Couldn't have said it better myself.

Mark Parker

ANGER IN CHINA

If the head of a country said "to get rich is glorious" you would think that the country would be capitalist in both name and deed. But this quote comes from Deng Xiaoping, the leader of the People's Republic of China, who has made this mentality the prevailing one for the elite in China. Under Deng China has experienced economic growth that is unrivaled in the history of any nation. At the same time the oppressive elements of Mao ZeDong's China have been left intact. The fact that China has gone capitalist but remained oppressive is no accident. In the last hundred years the People of China have achieved the end of the dynasty system, a nationalist government, and then in 1949, under Mao, a communist revolution. Another revolution against the existing capitalist government would seem to be historically likely and so in order to keep the people from revolting Deng has had to prevent them from gaining political power. However the government's control has started to loosen and as each day goes by the possibility of the Chinese people rising up and overthrowing their oppressors only grows greater.

It would be a mistake to sit around waiting for a revolution in China, as there are two large obstacles in the way of revolutionaries. The first obstacle is the growing military machine in China. Since the 1989 Tiananmen Square incident, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has not only grown in size but it has also made great advances technologically. (Oliver, April "The Dragon's New Teeth" The Nation, Feb.21, 1994 p.230.) Western observers have tended to see this as solely a build up for a coming reign of Chinese imperialism. While the scenario of China using its military might to take over other countries is not unlikely, the army is also being built up in order to keep down any future uprisings. (Oliver, April "The Dragon's New Teeth" The Nation, Feb.21, 1994 p.230.) But an even greater problem is the lack of organizational unity between students, workers, peasants, and other activists. I say organizational unity not to get over specific but because when incidents such as the Tiananmen Square massacre happen there is solidarity amongst these groups; however, there exists no ongoing dialogue on how to work together in order to achieve democracy and justice. The main reason for this is government repression of not only individual groups but of any groups that try to unite with others. In fact the repression of "unity groups" is probably the most intense. This is the result of the fact that unity of oppressed people in China is as Robert Munro, the Hong Kong director of Human Rights Watch, puts it, the Chinese government's "Worst nightmare come to life." (Sun, Lena H. "Back From Tiananmen Square" Washington Post Weekly Edition, March 21-27, 1994, p.16). This nightmare is not too far off though, in fact it's highly probable that the people of China will rise up. In this article I will attempt to analyze the three main

groups in China and how they may join together to achieve democracy and justice.

The first group, students, have perhaps got a disproportionate amount of credit for the democracy movement but nonetheless they have contributed greatly. Though almost every other social belief of Mao has been discouraged by the current Chinese government, students are still encouraged to seek the truth

from facts. This is of special importance in the formation of an anti-authoritarian movement in China. Despite being a "workers' state" some of the most dedicated opponents of the Chinese government are workers. And they have good reasons. Workers in China do not have the right to strike (Seymour, James D. "Human Rights in China" Current History Sept. 1994 p.257) and the only unions that are legal are "yellow unions". These unions will, of course, never disagree with the government or support their members. The factories in China are hell holes where beatings and searches of workers are as common as accidents and fires. (Barnathan, Joyce and Forney, Matt "Damping Labor's Fires" Business Week Aug. 1, 1994 p.40-41) These conditions have led to a militant labor movement with little regard for parliamentary politics. For example, in March of 1994, in the province of Heilongjiang, around 100,000 workers participated in protests against pay cuts. (Barnathan, Joyce and Forney, Matt "Damping Labor's Fires" Business Week, Aug. 1, 1994 p.40-41). To cool this anger the central government had Vice-Premier Thu Rongji get rid of the governor of the province but this action meant nothing to the workers who were demanding decent pay and improved working conditions. (Ibid) It would be incorrect to say that the workers' movement in China was completely democratic and in favor of democracy, as some favor a return to the Maoist path. However many, if not the majority of, militant workers are in favor of democracy. Like students they see how a communist government can change course and work for the interests of the powerful and in many cases they are punished more severely for pro-democracy activities than students are. In the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 those who received the most brutal treatment were workers not students. Because of their obvious importance to the economy of China, workers have great potential for revolutionary activities.

The peasants in China have experienced probably the greatest change of all Chinese citizens since Deng came to power. Farming is no longer a way to make a living as many have joined the ever increasing number of floating migrants who travel from place to place looking for work wherever they can get it. This group is expected to increase from several million in the early 1980's to 200 million by the year 2000. (Tyson, James L. and Tyson, Ann Scott "China's Villages: Surplus Workers on the Move" Christian Science Monitor Aug. 5, 1992 p.11) This group is very angry about theft of land as are those who stay in rural areas. Sluts and violence directed at government offices in the country side is becoming increasingly common. 1993 saw peasants in Renshou County, in the Sichuan province, set up road blocks, take local government officials hostage, and attack government buildings. To restore order the People's Armed Police was sent in but they were greeted by a defiant group of about 10,000 people who they needed to use tear gas to get rid of. (Shambaugh, David "Losing Control: The Erosion of State Authority in China" Current History Sept. 1993 p.255). The frustration and anger that is needed for revolution is here.

Sluts, peasant rebellious, strikes, and slowdowns by workers and peasants are at face value economically motivated. While the economic justification is completely valid they also represent the lack of control that people feel they have over their own lives. (Craybow, Charles "Five Years After Tiananmen: Eighty and Hopes in China" Freedom Review May/June 1994 p.6.)

This frustration is similar to that of students and so unity amongst all three groups is possible. Obviously the best way to solve this problem is for these people to actually get control of their lives, something which no government can do for them, but which an anti-authoritarian revolution could.

Micah Holmquist

US - Hands off Cuba

In this context we also mentioned the repeated threats and actions that, in a particularly aggressive manner, the gangs of Cuban origin based in Miami have carried out in recent times which include the aforementioned violation of Cuban air and water space, and even the gathering of weapons, the acquisition of ships, the introduction of arms and explosives and sending of terrorist commandos so they can carry out acts of violations in several places in Cuba.

There has been no need to obtain some of the fundamental elements of this part of the story through secret means. They have been narrated by their authors in press conferences in Miami, they appeared described in the newspapers of the Floridian city and they have been commenting, including with alarm by high officials of the U.S. government.

These U.S. Government officials, as stated in their declarations, have disapproved of the intentions and acts of these bands of terrorists that have their headquarters in Miami and have even warned them publicly on various occasions that if they continued such acts against Cuba the North American authorities would not be able to interfere with the actions the Cuban government would have to take to guarantee the sovereignty of its Nation.

Because of this, and after exhausting the recourse of warnings and adopting a very cautious manner in the face of repeated declarations and actions of an aggressive nature, of these terrorist groups of Cuban origin who have their burrows in Florida, the Cuban government decided to interrupt the continuation of air flights that transgress the Cuban sovereignty and put in danger the lives of Cuban citizens.

The responsibility for the actions that the Cuban government has now been forced to adopt in order to preserve its sacred and irrefutable duty to defend the national sovereignty falls on those who on repeated occasions refused to pay attention to the warnings, and persisted in their irresponsible adventures.

The shooting down of these pirate planes should be a lesson for those who support and carry out such acts and have the tendency to increase the tension between the United States and Cuba.

The Cuban Revolution will invariably continue adopting all means needed in order to defend its sovereignty and preserve the security of its people.

The Cuban government accepted the requests of the U.S. government to allow U.S. coast guard to come into our jurisdictional waters and together with our border patrol carry out search and rescue in the place where the planes were downed.

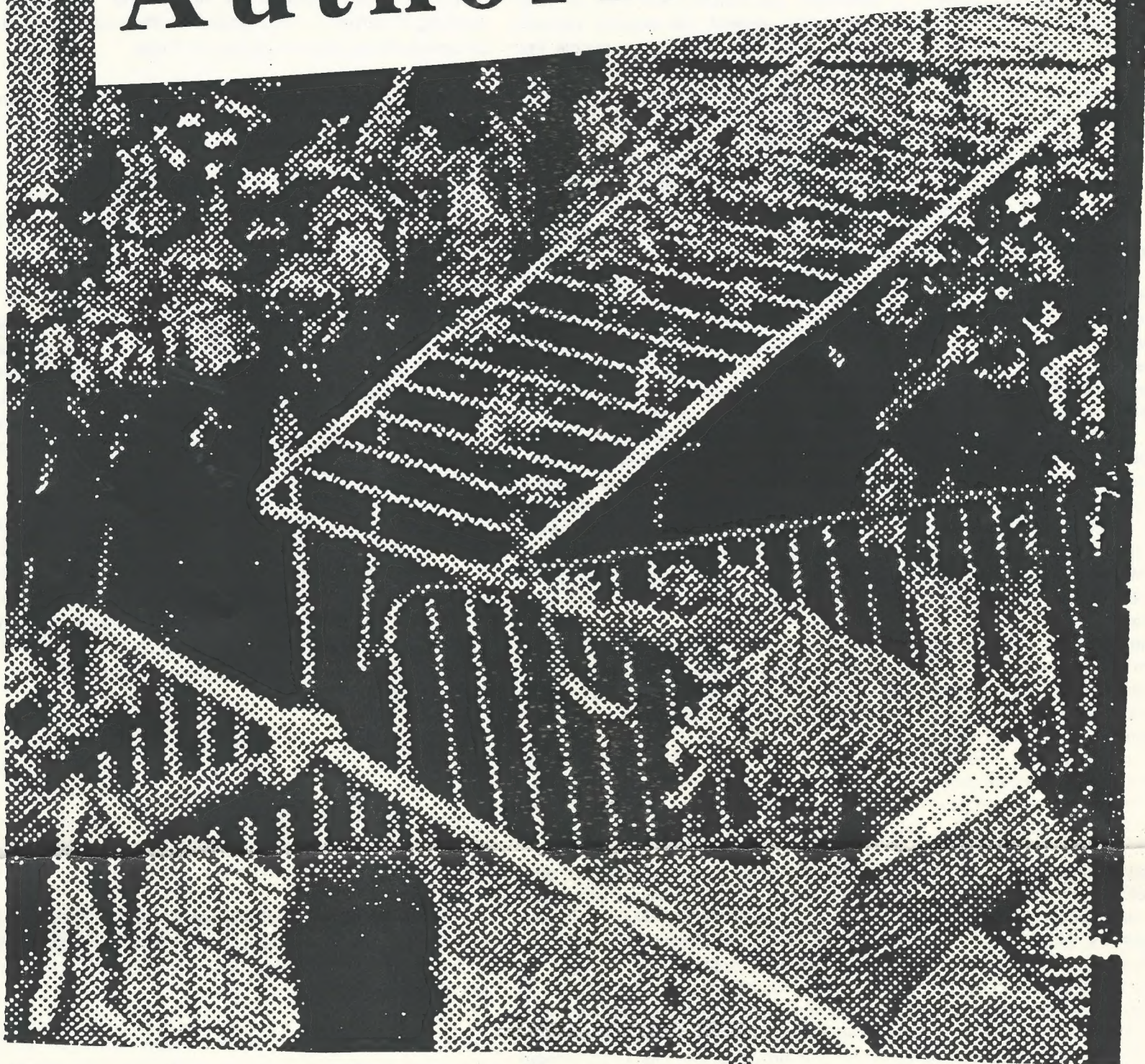
Our government regrets the loss of human lives as a result of the irresponsible and criminal aggressions against our Country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba.



Woman and child protesting the U.S. Defense Department

Build Anti-Authoritarian



Revolution Now!

Active Transformation Meetings

We Meet Every **FRIDAY** At 5pm
at Rm 441 in the MSU Union.

CALL (517)484-6338 for more info or write: box 6746,
e.lansing, mi 48826

Active Transformation is a direct action revolutionary anti-authoritarian collective. We are working to destroy oppression and establish a society based on non-heirarchical organization, mutual aid, and voluntary association - in other words - Anarchism.

FOR MORE INFO
CALL 484-6338



Where Rex Bell was murdered



Local cops harass Lansing youth at a Klan rally

Demand Justice for Bell and Swans cont'd from front page

The Lansing Police Department has attempted to thwart a public investigation of the incident from day one. Their first tactic was to delay their investigation into the case by using the toxicology report as an excuse. They were able to hold onto all evidence of the killing (including the videotape) for those two weeks that the toxicology lab reports took to create. Delaying tactic number two: After those reports didn't provide an alibi for the police, they referred the matter back to the coroner to await his final report. This took another three weeks or so. The coroner's office took its sweet time, then reported that Ed Swans had been smothered to death and that this death had been "accidental". Delaying tactic number three: the cops then referred the matter to Ingham County Prosecutor Donald Martin, asking him to see if any officers should be disciplined. After sitting on the case another week, Martin came to the conclusion that no officers were at fault. This person is the same guy who can indict 41 people in Lansing on drug charges, 40 of whom are Black and say that the process is "not racist".

Finally, after six weeks of delays, the city handed over the videotape to the public. The city would have held on to the tape even longer if the Swan family and their lawyer not sued in court for the evidence.

Possibly the biggest advantage for the cops in this case is the corporate media. The day after Edward Swans was killed, they deliberately suppressed any mention of why Mr. Swans was mentally ill in the Lansing State Journal. Instead, as a way of dehumanizing Swans, they seemed fixated with his weight. No less than three articles mentioned that he was 225 pounds, as if he was some kind of large animal or something. None of the articles mentioned that Mr. Swans had suffered from a closed-head injury in the Vietnam War. I learned that from a friend of a friend who works in the receiving department of a local hospital. The Journal only mentioned that he was a Vietnam Vet in a passing reference to his flashbacks of the war. The news media effectively covered up the cruelest aspect of this case: that Mr. Swans was sent the Vietnam to fight a dirty war for the Pentagon -- had his sanity partly destroyed there -- and back home the authorities who sent him there didn't even have the decency to provide proper mental health care for Swans. The day that he attempted to break into a childcare center two doors down from the house that his wife owned, he had stayed at the Volunteers of America homeless shelter; a place where a person's dignity is reduced to zero by a combination of religious harassment and overcrowding. This is how the State rewards those injured in its wars!

Sparty's Nightclub is guilty!

Sparty's has hired racist goons and an Uncle Tom lawyer to attempt to forestall justice in the Rex Bell case. With the help of the Lansing Township Police Department and the corporate media, it appears that they are succeeding...

Some local African American church leaders were pushing for the State of Michigan Liquor Control Commission to shut down Sparty's. This appeal to the State did absolutely no good as usual. The Control Commission instead has decided to revoke the liquor license of nearby Dooley's. Dooley's didn't murder anyone; all they did was let some younger narcs drink alcohol. The actual reason why Dooley's license was revoked was that teenagers hung out there, as opposed to the more adult crowd of the other bars. And as befits the wave of state oppression against young people, Dooley's was attacked. On nearby Trowbridge Rd. the Kabuki Restaurant is in the process of being closed down by local law enforcement for failure to pay \$2700 in taxes. (State News, 3/ 22/96). I would guess that means Bell's life was worth less than \$2700 to the state.

A spirited group of community activists showed up at Sparty's on Saturday nights to protest the killing of Rex Bell. Even with a maximum of about 25 people and some bitterly cold weather, we were still able to make a lot of noise and attract some attention. After the first two rallies, the press disappeared on Saturday nights and the racist Sparty's goons started to push and shove protesters around and the protesters shoved back. The protesters were not even on the property of Sparty's nightclub when the goons decided to "create some more parking spaces". Lansing Township Police showed up and Sparty's security goons pointed out a few of us to the police but nothing happened. The press did not show up after the cops were called.

A meeting was scheduled at LCC after the second protest at Sparty's to organize a larger direct action response to police brutality in Lansing. Three Sparty's goons showed up -- calling themselves "independent investigators from the Shield Insurance Agency". We asked them to leave immediately; they said they would and then refused. Things quickly turned into a shouting match between the eight or so organizers and the goons. Unfortunately, we had picked a lounge for our meeting right next to the public safety department at Lansing Community College. LCC security was right there on the scene to help "keep order". The meeting turned into more of a standoff where we were only able to get people's numbers to establish a phone list. Only after the goons had left did we realize that one of the people that we had thought was there for the meeting was actually the Sparty's lawyer. This Uncle Tom had slyly taken a position behind the other African Americans from the community and had tried to make it look like we didn't know what had happened to Rex Bell. One of us said a witness had stated that there was blood on Rex Bell at the time of his death. (Reported in the State Journal, 2/5/96). The lawyer immediately started shaking his head and said that had never been reported. Having someone from the community (we thought) question our facts, (which we did not have on hand), shook our confidence a bit. This harassment by Sparty's Nightclub proves to me that they are a ruthless, racist establishment.

Just as in the Swans case, the police are using the tactic of delay in order to lower the rage of the Lansing population. Almost nine weeks after Rex Bell was murdered there is no word from the authorities. They are "working on it". My guess is that they want to let as much time pass as possible between the time the Swans case was whitewashed and the time the Bell case will be whitewashed to cut down on the number of people getting out and into the streets. Helping the police in cooling down the population has been the local Black authorities. After having two meetings with over 300 people at them, the reverends and other professionals called off any other meetings because people were getting "too angry". This line of "non-violence" is a dead end! Justice for Swans and Bell by any means necessary!

Mark Parker

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April/May '96

Out for Justice!

OUT FOR JUSTICE is a community based organization in and around Lansing. It has been formed to fight against the continuing and rising racist police/court/prison system.

OUT FOR JUSTICE has declared the "War on Drugs" to be a war on Blacks. It cites the facts that 80% of illegal drug users are white (Harper's Magazine), but most people convicted of drug crimes in the Midwest are Black. It also uses the recent report that one out of every three young Black males have been jailed (with the rate rising), to come to the conclusion that this is a planned systematic attack on the Black community.

OUT FOR JUSTICE is out in defense of the community.

We are acting to uncover the racist nature of an Ingham County Grand Jury that lined up over 40 people on "conspiracy to deliver" cocaine. They charged these people by using prisoners' testimony in return for lesser sentences. All of the charges were based on hearsay with no physical evidence. All but two of the people charged were Black, while the entire Grand Jury was white.

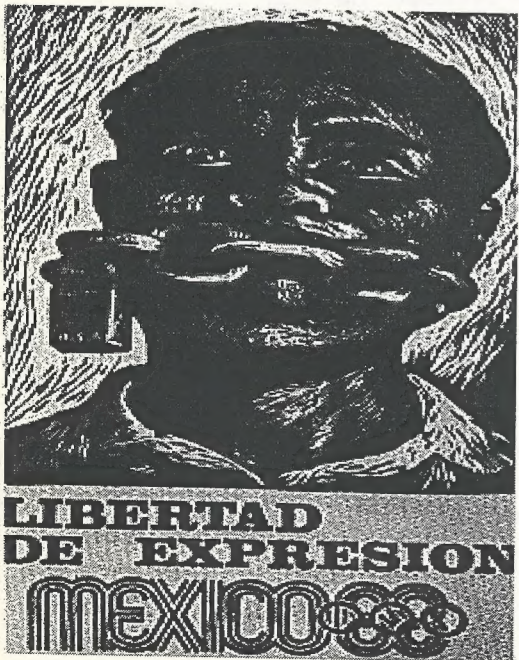
OUT FOR JUSTICE has been using protests and public postings to generate public awareness of the true reality of the Grand Jury. Several of those charged have now had their charges dropped.

On October 5th we held a rally at the Ingham County Prosecutor's office to take our message right to the people who have been carrying out these injustices. We handed out many hand bills and received a positive response. We even met with the assistant prosecutor who gave us his word of support.

On October 6th, the day after the protest, Thomas Patrick, an OUT FOR JUSTICE spokesperson, was picked up by the police on the charge of threatening a witness for the Grand Jury. Later, the witness told the court that Patrick had not in fact, threatened him. The court, however, continued to revoke bond since Patrick had called witnesses so that they could talk to his lawyer concerning police coercion of testimony. One wonders how the indicted are supposed to collect evidence in their defense. The denial of bail for Mr. Patrick is a planned maneuver to keep OUT FOR JUSTICE off of the prosecutor's back. OUT FOR JUSTICE needs your help to fight the Grand Jury, to fight for Thomas Patrick's freedom from jail and harassment, and to fight the state's attack on the Black and the poor.



Lansing KKKops protecting the Klan in 1994



Defend the Lansing Latin American Community!

In the early hours of March 24th, a bus with 30 police in it pulled up to the Latin American Social Club in North Lansing. There was a cop riot. The pigs rounded up 90 people and ticketed them. Twenty-three people were arrested and dragged away.

The police took all the alcoholic beverages that people had on their tables and put it all together. The TV News obligingly came in and videotaped the alcoholic beverages. "Blind Pig" they said. In the State of Michigan it is illegal to sell alcohol without a license. But that is not why they arrested 23 people that night!

They attacked the club because there were Latin American teenagers having a good time there. You see, cops in Lansing have run out of young black men and women to throw in jail. When you have hundreds of cops and no Black people to harass, the LPD does the next best thing -- go after the Latin Americans. The Lansing Police Department is known far and wide for its violent intolerance toward African Americans, the Gay and Lesbian Community, and the Latin Community. See the front page for one example.

The initial reason the police raided the club is called "territory". The other bars in the area claimed that the dance club was draining their customers and their profits. (Lansing State Journal, 3/25/96) And as a matter of fact, the space above Beltran's Video was doing just that. It was a place that was more open to the community. The club allowed people to bring their own beer to the spot. The space was used free of charge by poor grass roots community organizations to organize against discrimination. For example, a new curriculum (Xicano history classes) for Eastern High School students was proposed at meetings at that club. Other local businesses that knew how to gouge bar customers by charging high prices and did not serve the community at all were afraid. Afraid that the Latin American Social Club might provide the local community with a fun time at reasonable prices; and cut into the profits for the local business elite.

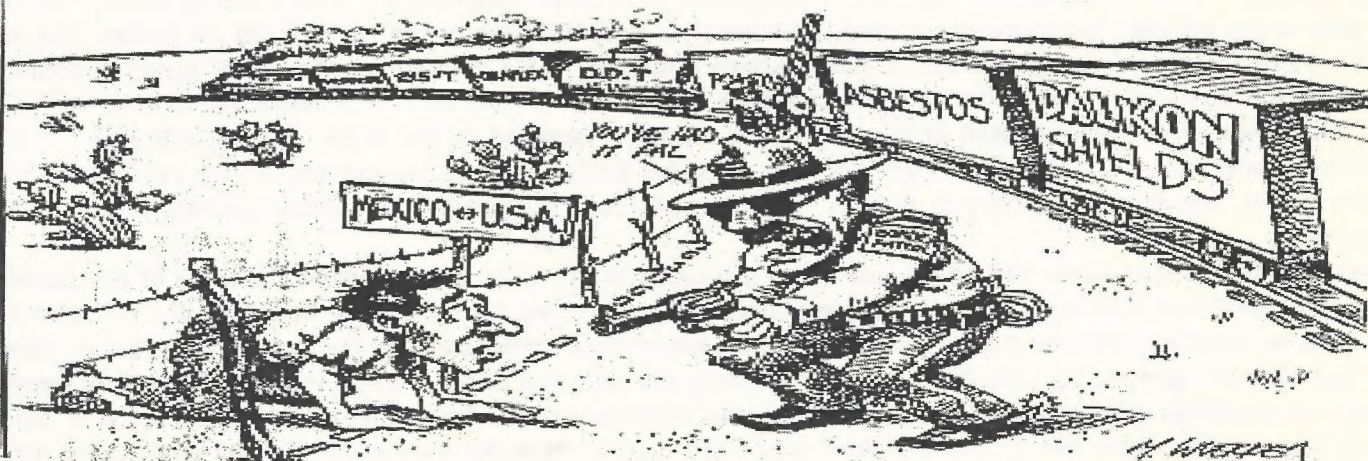
These local businesspeople called the police; why not get rid of this open-minded, loosely run, progressive establishment. They said; we need deadly dull music, high prices, and a bias toward conservatively dressed patrons. The police were happy to oblige. When their narc supposedly bought alcohol Saturday night, they charged the club, armed with a warrant, billy clubs and nine millimeter semi-automatics. Witnesses said that they were abusive and trashed the club. (Lansing State Journal, 3/25/96) One person was dragged away for stating that "This is a piece of crap." and advising teens not to take breathalyzer tests. The owner of the club also spent the night in jail.

If this establishment had been white-owned, the owner would have likely received a polite letter in the mail from City Hall, reminding them that the sale of alcohol is regulated by the Liquor Control Commission. (See front page article for more information on the priorities of the Liquor Control Commission). At the most, a white-owned establishment would have received possibly a warning and maybe a ticket, and the beer would have been confiscated. Instead, the mob of racist cops trashed the club, assaulted the guests, and dragged away anyone who said anything.

Bear in mind that this cultural center was very well-connected: some of the higher-ups in the Hollister administration, from Dave Weiner (Mayoral Assistant) to Hollister himself were at the Club at one time or another. MSU student organizations like the Caribbean Student Organization, the Culturas de las Razas Unidas and MEXA often went there. The reggae show on MSU's student radio station often borrowed CD's from the club. The owner, John Beltran, is a member of the Lansing Human Relations Board, a City Hall group. If the police in Lansing are going after such a well connected bunch of people for breaking a trivial law ("operating an unlicensed bar") -- then we are getting closer to that police state that is every cop's dream.

Mark Parker

DRUG RUNNERS - AT THE BORDER



The conduct of the Lansing KKKops is a natural extension of U.S. federal immigration and nationalist policies

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